4162

MAHARAJA SAYAJIRAO UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGY SERIES No. 9

EXCAVATION AT SHAMALAJI

By

Dr. R. N. Mehta,
Head, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History,

and

Shri A. J. Patel,
Curator, Department of Archaeology and Ancient History

DEPARTMENT OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND ANCIENT HISTORY,
FACULTY OF ARTS,
The M. S. University of Baroda
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FOREWORD

The Department of Archaeology and Ancient History of the M. S. University of Baroda carries on a systematic study of the material Culture of India by exploring and excavating ancient sites. It publishes its findings in the M. S. University Archaeology series.

Following this tradition, the report of the excavation conducted at Shamalaji in 1962 is being published. This excavation resulted in the discovery of an ancient fortified township which was an important military and trading centre in North-East Gujarat. It also gives an idea of the life conditions of this town, when the Mahastupa and Mahavihara at Devnimori, a site about two kilometers to the south of Shamalaji were built and this Buddhist settlement was flourishing. I am sure that the scholars will find this publication a useful one providing new data and interpretation in the subject.

C. S. PATEL,
Vice-Chancellor,
The M. S. University of Baroda.

PREFACE

The excavation at Shamalaji was conducted in the field-season of 1962, by the Department of Archaeology and Ancient History, Faculty of Arts, The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, under the supervision of late Prof. B. Subbarao.

After the sad demise of the excavator, the preparation of the excavation report was a fairly difficult task. It was completed by the co-operative efforts of the staff members.

The present writers had first-hand observation of the trench but the daily reports and registration of antiquities as well as the preparation of drawings on the site were done by sarvashree R. J. Khatri, M. D. Varma and D. B. Panchal.

In writing this report the assistance of Shri C. U. Bhagat proved to be of utmost value. He was responsible for the classification of antiquities and constantly kept tracing them so that the burden of much mechanical work was reduced. The illustrations of this report were made by sarvashree R. J. Khatri, D. B. Panchal, N. M. Khatri and R. C. Sutaria.

The manuscript was neatly typed by Shri M. L. Joshi and B. A. Shah. The proof-reading was done by Dr. Mrs. D. R. Shah.

The report is drafted by the present writers, who are indebted to all the above-mentioned associates for their willing co-operation. The authors gratefully acknowledge the close co-operation of the members of the M. S. University Press.

The constant help and encouragement given by Dr. C. S. Patel, our Vice-Chancellor as well as Prof. P. J. Madan, our Pro-Vice-Chancellor, were a great factor in bringing this work to completion.

Finally, the authors gratefully acknowledge the help given by the University Grants Commission for publishing this work.

Kartika 11
Samvat 2023

R. N. Mehta
A. J. Patel

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Nos.	*Sub-square*	*Layer*	*Nos.*	*Sub-square*	*Layer*
1	B	2	27	C	2
2	B	2	28	B	3
3	R	2	29	U	2
4	U	9	30	B	2
5	B	3	31	U	1
6	R	1	32	C	2
7	B	12	33	X	10
8	B	3	34	G	3
9	U	5	35	G	3
10	B	2	36	U	2
11	T	8	37	B	3
12	D	1	38	V	9
13	E	3	39	U	9
14	C	2	40	I	3
15	B	3	41	Z	8
16	D	2	42	T	4
17	B	5	43	S	4
18	N	2	44	U	3
19	E	2	45	E	3
20	D	3	46	P	2
21	B	3	47	O	9
22	E	5	48	C	3
23	E	1	49	R	4
24	R	1	50	E	3
25	M	4	51	V	1
26	I	9	52	B	2

Nos.	*Sub-square*	*Layer*	*Nos.*	*Sub-square*	*Layer*
53	U	1	97	C	1
54	U	9	98	A	2
55	T	9	99	C	3
56	Q	7	100	R	4
57	D	4	101	B	2
58	B	3	102	E	5
59	W	8	103	O	3
60	P	2	104	X	6
61	B	2	105	X	7
62	B	3	106	G	8
63	U	9	107	E	5
64	R	5	108	G	4
65	Z	12	109	O	5
66	G	8	110	P	4
67	N	4	111	N	5
68	E	5	112	X	9
69	E	2	113	E	2
70	X	9	114	W	9
71	T	7	115	G	2
72	N	4	116	Z	9
73	Q	3	117	Z	6
74	T	4	118	V	8
75	G	8	119	U	9
76	X	1	120	O	4
77	E	3	121	S	4
78	S	5	122	R	5
79	X	8	123	G	8
80	B	2	124	C	4
81	C	2	125	R	3
82	X	9	126	V	3
83	C	2	127	E	6
84	R	3	128	V	8
85	T	12	129	R	9
86	B	3	130	B	5
87	C	4	131	C	3
88	V	9	132	P	4
89	V	9	133	P	4
90	X	6	134	O	5
91	U	5	135	R	4
92	Z	8	136	N	5
93	B	2	137	R	4
94	K	3	138	R	9
95	V	2	139	N	4
96	B	3	140	U	10

Nos.	*Sub-square*	*Layer*	*Nos.*	*Sub-square*	*Layer*
141	U	8	157	I	3
142	U	8	158	W	9
143	V	10	159	E	3
144	Z	6	160	R	3
145	O	7	161	X	7
146	V	9	162	X	8
147	Z	9	163	N	7
148	N	5	164	X	7
149	N	4	165	Z	9
150	P	4	166	O	3
151	J	4	167	Z	9
152	E	7	168	X	1
153	X	5	169	V	5
154	P	7	170	V	10
155	P	7	171	U	8
156	G	7			

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Plate IV-B A led coin.

Plate V Tuyeres and crucibles.

ERRATA

	Wrong	*Correct*
P. 1	23-41° N, 73-26°E	23°-41′ N, 73°-26′ E
P. 40	Barhmi	Brahmi

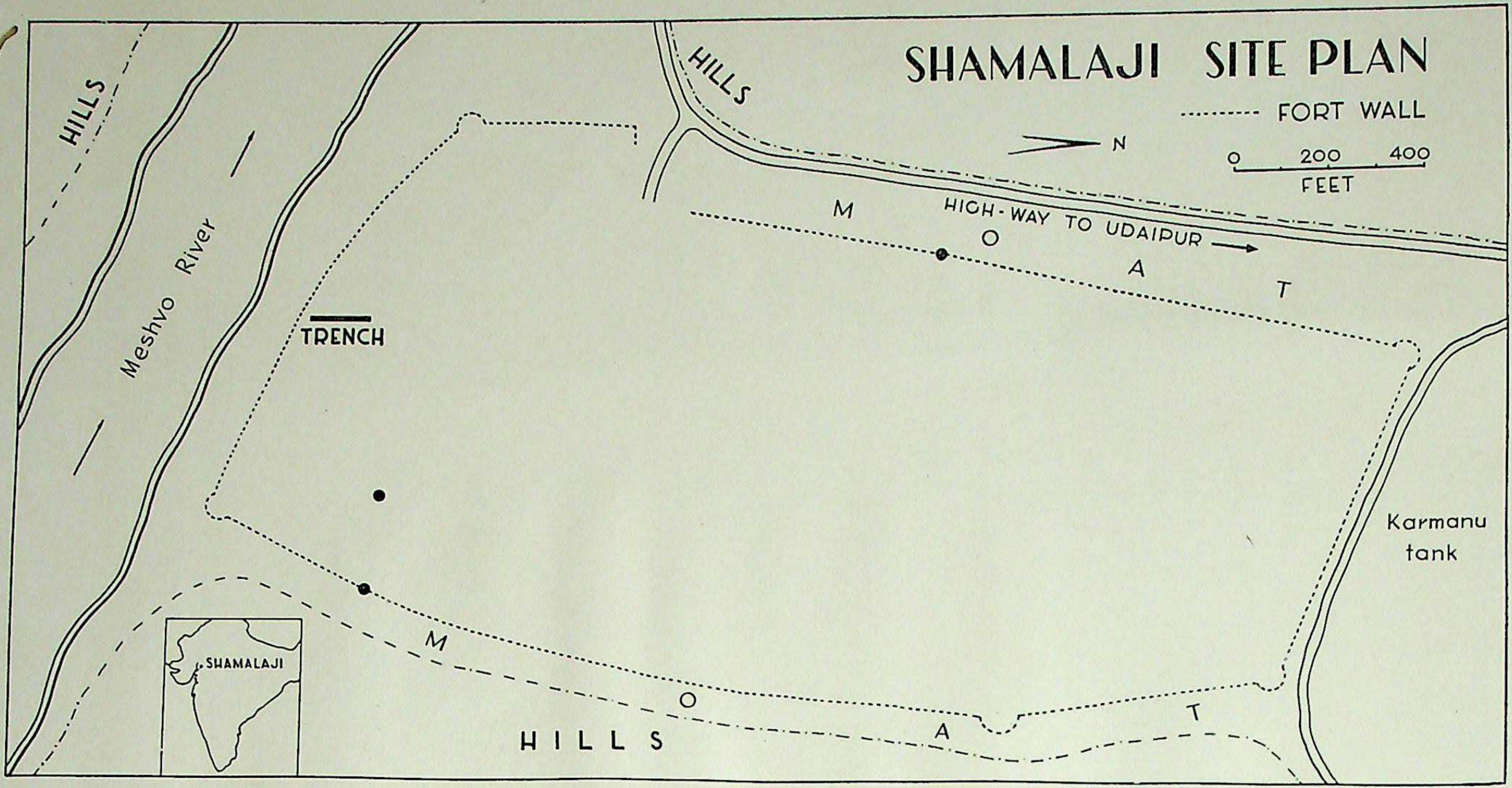

SHAMALAJI SITE PLAN
FORT WALL
N
0 200 400
FEET
HILLS
HILLS
Meshvo River
TRENCH
M O A T
HIGH-WAY TO UDAIPUR
M O A T
HILLS
SHAMALAJI
Karmanu tank

Fig. 1.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Site

Shamalaji is a small village (23-41° N., 73-26° E.) in the Bhiloda Taluka, Sabarkantha District of the State of Gujarat. It is situated at a distance of about 123 kilometers to the north-east of Ahmedabad and is approached by the State Transport bus. Shamalaji road is now a railway station on the Udaipur-Himatnagar-Ahmedabad Branch of the Western Railway.

Geographical Position

Shamalaji is picturesquely situated in a forested valley of the outliers of the Aravalli mountains (Pl. I). The hill on the east of Shamalaji has no specific name but is known variously as *Dodivalo Dungar* or *Karmantalav no Dungar*. Those on the south are known as *Bhamario* and *Ranchhodji-Dharo* and that on the west is known as the *Devalio Dungar*. To the north of Shamalaji is a broad valley carved out by the river Meshvo which skirts the southern boundary of Shamalaji after passing through a narrow gorge to the south-east.

Shamalaji is thus protected by nature, but man had strengthened these protective features by digging moats on the east and west and an artificial tank on the north, as well as by constructing a small fort (Fig. 1).

The survey sheet No. 46 E/2 & 6 of Survey of India indicates the presence of a fortress, a few temples and huts at this place. At Shamalaji, most imposing structure is that of the temple of *Gadadhara* built in circa 15th/16th century A.D. This temple is known as that of Shamalaji and has given this name to the present village. Today, its nucleus is this temple around which some shops and *Dharmashalas* and temples are existing. The Bhil inhabitants stay in scattered huts, in fields cultivated by them. A police-station is the only other construction of some note.

This pilgrim centre is known for its fair to which people from the surrounding region flock together in the month of Kartika (October-November). Shamalaji has a pleasant climate and with the raising of the bund for *Shyama-Sarovara* its natural beauty is enhanced at the cost of ancient remains of *Devnimori*.

Previous Work

This place was noted by the Bombay Gazatteer in its Volume V, pp. 440-441. Here the temple of *Gadadhara* is described and it is noted that the Jains claim Shamalaji's temple.

This area was further explored by Shri P. A. Inamdar of the Idar State.[1] He described the temple and collected a number of images from *Devalio Dharo* and *Devnimori* area. Dr. H. Goetz,[2] Dr. U. P. Shah[3] were the other scholars who studied specially the sculptures of this area. Dr. U. P. Shah, however, drew the attention to the large-sized bricks obtained from the *Khak-chauk* area and Dr. S. N. Chowdhary of this Department confirmed his observation as well as obtained pottery of the early historic period.

The traditions about this town are described in a Gujarati booklet '*Shamalaji*'[4] published by the temple trust of Shamalaji. An issue of '*Audumbara*',[5] a Gujarati Journal, is devoted to this site. A *Sthala Mahatmya* named as '*Shrimad Gadadhara Mahatmya*' is written in Sanskrit and is edited by Shri Shamaldas Laxmiram.[6] It gives *pauranic* legends about this site.

Aims

The field-study indicated that Shamalaji was a flourishing township. But its history was practically unknown in spite of the little work that was undertaken in this region. Moreover, the excavation at *Devnimori* brought to light a flourishing Buddhist colony.[7] It led to the search for the habitation of the lay disciples living in some town in the vicinity. The only habitation of some note was buried under the present Shamalaji, hence it was very natural that the early habitation at Shamalaji should give some evidence of a town or a village which would be contemporaneous to the settlement of *Devnimori*. To solve these problems, it was decided to lay a trench and carry out vertical excavation in the Shamalaji village. It was assumed that this excavation would give the history of the settlement and would help to correlate the cultures of Shamalaji and *Devnimori.*

---

[1] Inamdar, P. A., *Some Archaeological Finds in Idar State.*

[2] Goetz, H., Gupta Sculptures from North Gujarat, *Journal of the Gujarat Research Society*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, p. 2 ff.

[3] Shah, U. P., Sculptures from Shamalaji and Roda, *Bulletin of the Baroda Museum and Picture Gallery*, 1960.

[4] Soni, Ramanlal, *Shamalaji.*

[5] Acharya J. S. (Ed.), Audumbara, Vol. III, No. 1, Nov. 1961.

[6] Shamaldas Laxmiram, (editor) *Shrimad Gadadhara Mahatmya*, 1st edition, 1934 A.D.

[7] Mehta, R. N., & Chowdhary S. N. *Excavation at Devnimori.*

Trench

With the above objectives in view, a trench (Fig. 1) was laid in the southern part of Shamalaji behind the temple of Shamalaji, in north-south direction. It was 130′ × 12′ and was divided in 26 sub-squares each measuring 5′ × 12′. Parts of this trench were excavated to the natural earth which was obtained at the depth of 24′-3″ (Figs. 2, 3).

The stratigraphy of this trench revealed 14 super-imposed layers, representing the debris of occupation, with nineteen structural remains and minor antiquities (Pl. II and Figs. 2, 3).

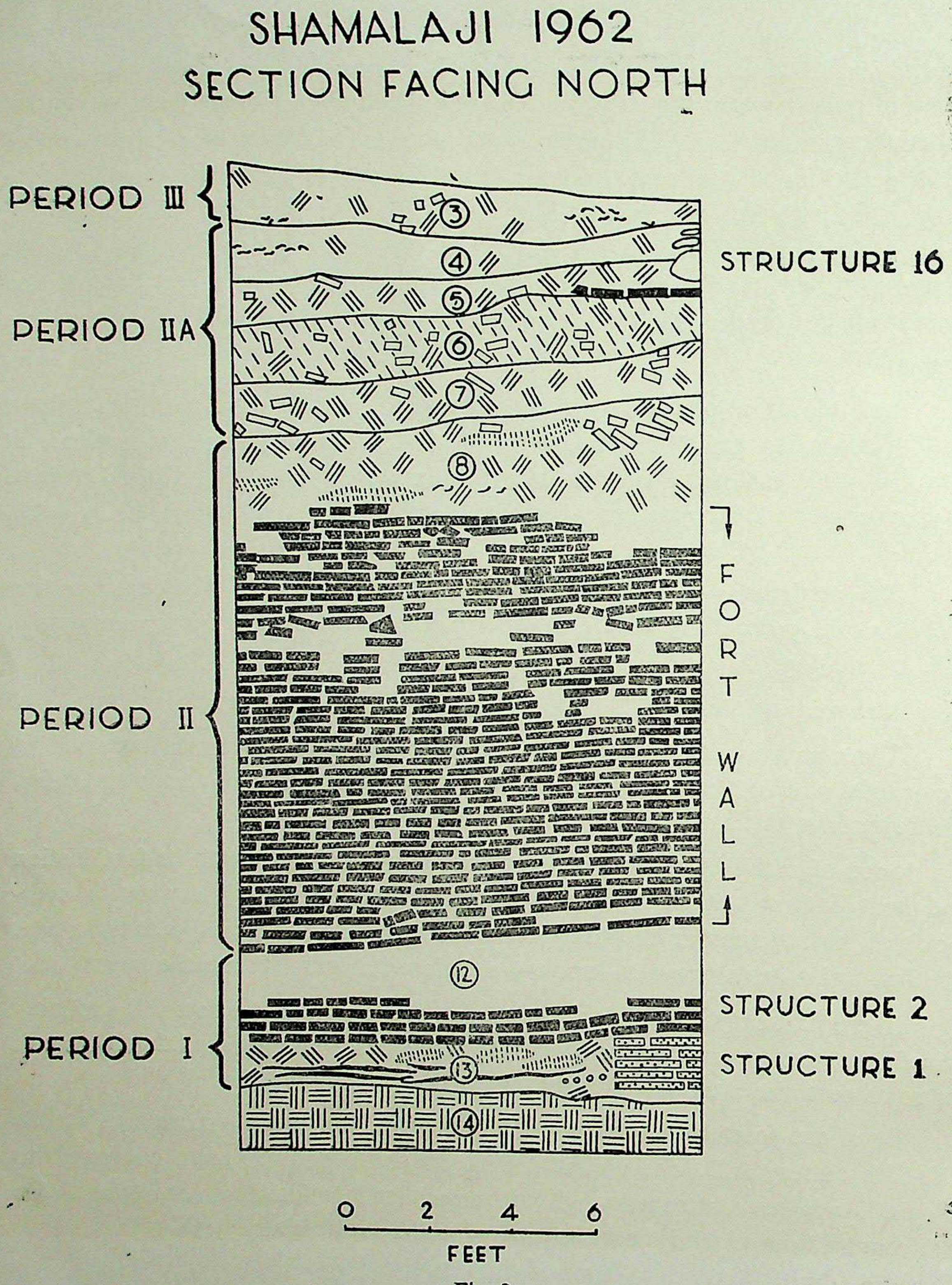
Short Summary of Results

The excavation revealed that in the beginning, this town was occupied by iron-smiths who carried on their activities on the southern side of this town around the beginnings of Christian Era.

Soon after this habitation, it became an important town with its fortification and moats suggesting thereby that it might have been a small military station overlooking a road connecting the hinterland of India to the ports on the Arabian Sea. The fort wall was damaged at least twice, before its complete abandonment.

In the next stage the military occupation was over and the fort was probably ruined; but the town continued to prosper for a few centuries more and then it shrank for some centuries after 9th/10th century A.D.

By about fourteenth century A.D. the town was again prospering; in the 15th-16th century A.D., the present temple was built and the town continued to enjoy a fair degree of prosperity. But it seems that it suffered some reverses in the 18th century from which it began to emerge in the 19th century A.D.


SHAMALAJI 1962
SECTION FACING NORTH

PERIOD III
PERIOD IIA
PERIOD II
PERIOD I
③
④
⑤
⑥
⑦
⑧
⑫
⑬
⑭
STRUCTURE 16
FORT WALL
STRUCTURE 2
STRUCTURE 1
0 2 4 6
FEET

Fig. 2.

SHAMALAJI 1962

SECTION FACING WEST

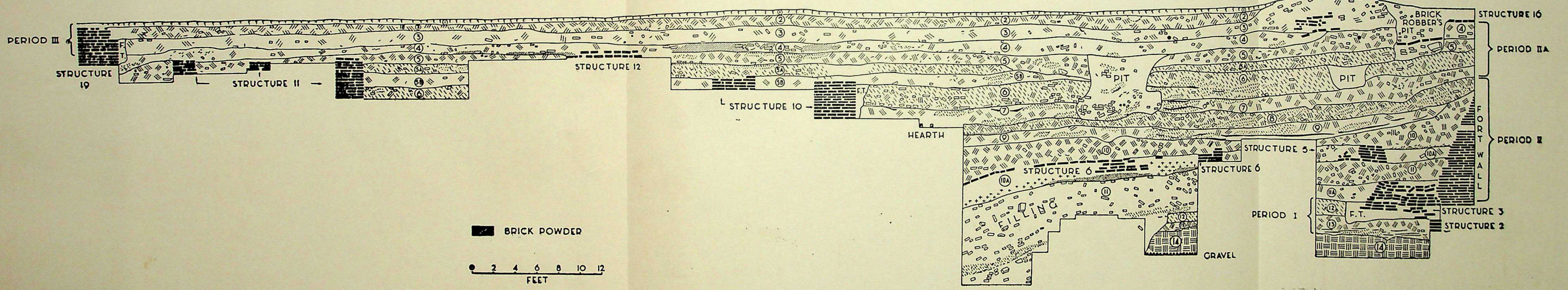

PERIOD III
STRUCTURE 19
STRUCTURE 11
STRUCTURE 12
STRUCTURE 10
HEARTH
F.T.
STRUCTURE 6
FILLING
PIT
PIT
BRICK ROBBER'S PIT
STRUCTURE 16
PERIOD IIA
PERIOD II
FORT WALL
STRUCTURE 5
STRUCTURE 6
STRUCTURE 3
STRUCTURE 2
PERIOD I
F.T.
GRAVEL
BRICK POWDER
0 2 4 6 8 10 12
FEET

Fig. 3.

CHAPTER II

CHRONOLOGY

Introduction

The chronology of the habitation at Shamalaji was unknown. The *Gadadhara Mahatmya* tried to give it the hoary antiquity based on fictitious transference of Pauranic mythology.[1] But this *Mahatmya* is a late work and its Pauranic Chronology need not be considered seriously.

Only effort that was made previously was to date the standing temple of Shamalaji. It was dated by Shri P. A. Inamdar to circa 12th century A.D. But a close examination of the temple and the study of the available inscriptions and sculptures indicate that it was not erected before 15th century A.D. A few sculptures were stylistically dated to the period before 1000 A.D. But these efforts did not help much to clear the chronology of this township, hence, the effort is made to trace the chronology of the settlement of Shamalaji on the basis of the finds from the excavation.

Basis of Chronology

The trench excavated at Shamalaji brought out numerous types of pottery, but those that have a well defined chronological value are the Roman amphorae, Red Polished Ware and the Muslim Glazed Ware. The other associated wares such as the Crude Red and Black, Stamped Ware etc. have given additional evidence for fixing the chronology of Shamalaji.

---

[1] Such efforts were made by many *Sthala Mahatmyas* but each *Sthala Mahatmya* requires careful study. Often such study leads to interesting results. Cf.

Mehta, R. N., Kaumarika Khanda—A Study, *Jour. of M.S.U., Baroda*, Vol. XIV, No. 1, p. 39 ff.

Also Mehta, R. N., Tarapur ni Dantakatha ane Puravastu (Guj.) *Svadhyaya*, Vol. III, No. 2, p. 222 ff.

Roman Amphorae

The amphorae sherds provided a very useful datum from chronology. Brisk Roman trade with India in the early centuries of Christian Era is very well documented. Some of the items of Indian imports were the wine and olive oil. These liquids were brought in terracotta jars, known as amphorae. These are indicative of the period of Roman trade. According to Sir Mortimer Wheeler,[2] this trade was known from about 1st century A.D. to 3rd century A.D. and the amphorae came to India in these centuries. The excavation at Nagara, Taluka Cambay, District Kaira, indicates that this Ware came to this port after the middle of the 1st century A.D.[3] This is the nearest source of supply to the markets of Shamalaji. It is, therefore, reasonable to infer that the first occurrence of this Ware at Shamalaji be dated to circa 1st-2nd century A.D. The Ware seems to occur after the construction of the fort. Only one sherd occuring in the layer immediately above the final descruction of the fort, might have come from the lower layers, as such, it seems that this Ware did not reach Shamalaji after this period. Looking to this phenomenon, one is tempted to associate the layers in which this Ware was found in the period between 50 A.D. and 400 A.D. The occurrence of this Ware at Devnimori in the deposit which could be dated to a period preceding 375 A.D. also seems to support this view.[4]

Red Polished Ware

The Red Polished Ware, a finely lavigated red pottery, is also found in the layers which could be ascribed to the early centuries of the Christian Era. It was obtained in the excavations at Baroda,[5] Timbarva[6] and Vadnagar[7] in Gujarat as well as its occurrence at Devnimori[8] in such context indicates that the layers in which they occur at Shamalaji be ascribed to a period between 2nd century A.D. to the 5th century A.D.

---

[2] Wheeler, Sir R.E.M., Arikamedu, *Ancient India*, Vol. 2, p. 22 ff.

[3] In the excavation at Nagara this Ware was found in association with inscribed potsherd which could be dated to the 1st half of the 2nd century A.D. Carbon 14 dates obtained at Nagara confirms this view. These dates are 1945 ± 90 and 2030 ± 105.

[4] Mehta R. N. & Chowdhary, S. N., *Excavation at Devnimori*, M. S. University Archaeology and Ancient History Series No. 8, Baroda, p. 27 ff.

[5] Subbarao, B., *Baroda through the Ages*, M. S. University Archaeology and Ancient History Series No. 1., Baroda, p. 35-36.

[6] Mehta, R. N., *Excavations at Timbarva*, M. S. University Archaeology and Ancient History, Series No. 2., Baroda, p. 3.

[7] Subbarao, B., & Mehta R. N., Excavation at Vadnagar, *Journal of the M. S. University of Baroda*, Vol. IV, No. 1., p. 21 ff.

It is interesting to note that both, the amphorae and the Red Polished Ware occur in almost contemporary layers.

Embossed Ware

The embossed pottery is also an important type. It occurs at *Devnimori* where it could be dated in the period of about 4th century A.D.[9] It is also associated with the above mentioned pottery types. It is dated to a period of 100 B.C. to 200 A.D. at Tripuri by Dikshit.[10] Its occurrence here indicates that this site also could be dated in the early centuries of Christian Era.

Crude Red and Black Ware

The Crude red and black ware, Burnished red and Burnished black and some Mica dusted ware similar to that obtained from Nagara as well as Vadnagar help to indicate that the layers from which they are found, should be corelated with those, at these sites and be ascribed to a period before 1000 A.D. The occurrence of Muslim Glazed Ware and disappearance of early pottery indicate some time gap.

Muslim Glazed Ware

The other interesting ware that helps to fix the chronology is the Muslim Glazed Ware. It is found in the deposits of 14th and succeeding centuries from a number of sites in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Malwa and Maharashtra. Its occurrence at Shamalaji in the upper layer and its total absence at Devnimori indicates that this Ware came to this site in a period after 14th century A.D. Some other pottery types that were associated with this ware in the excavations at sites like Baroda indicate that this site was occupied after some gap.

---

[8] Mehta, R. N. & Chowdhary, S. N., *Excavations at Devnimori.*

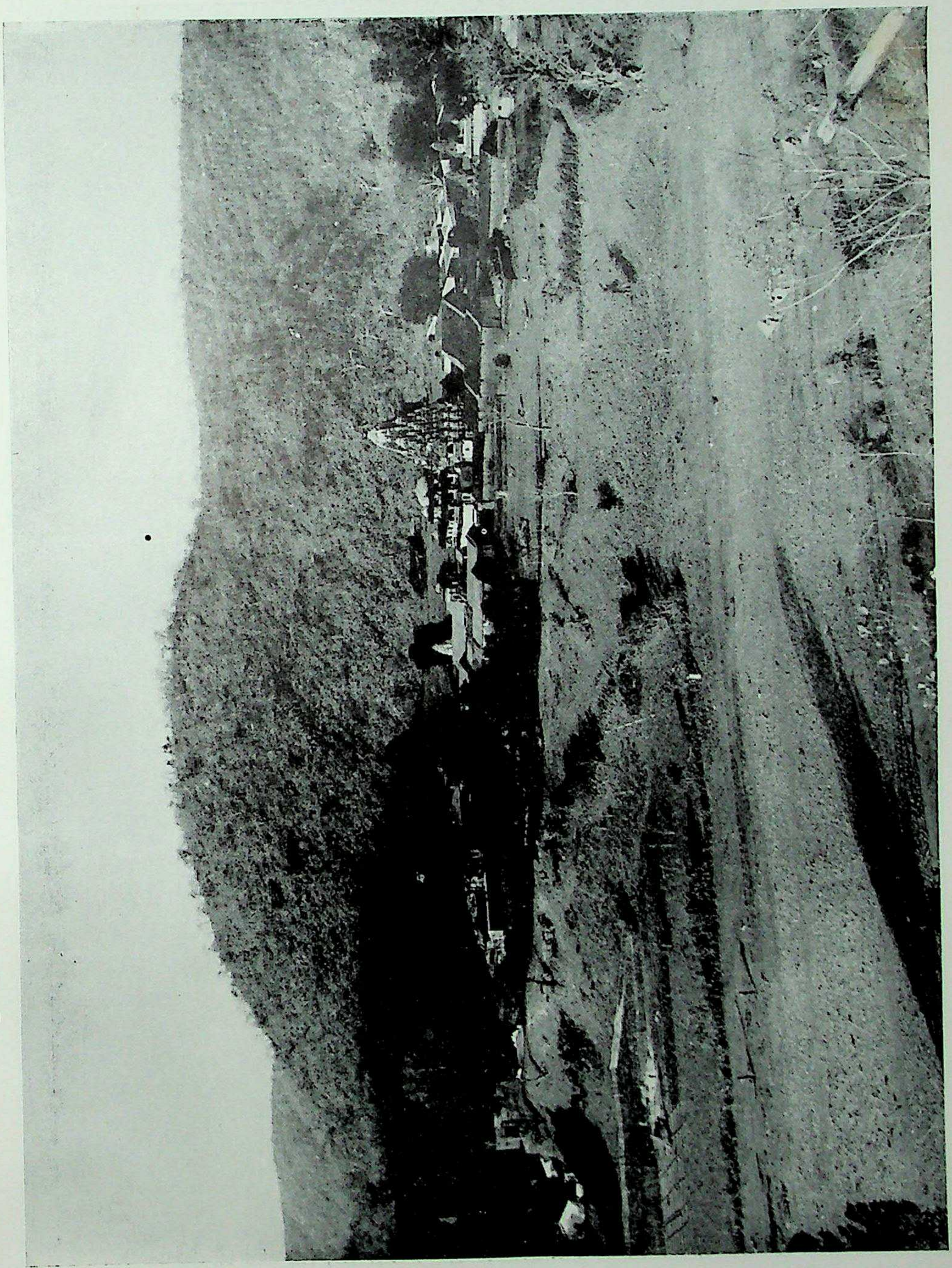
[9] *Ibid.*

[10] Dikshit, M. G., Tripuri—1952, p. 18; also Tripuri Excavations—(Short Report and Exhibition), 1966, p. 11.

With these landmarks in chronology, it is possible to divide the history of Shamalaji as follows:

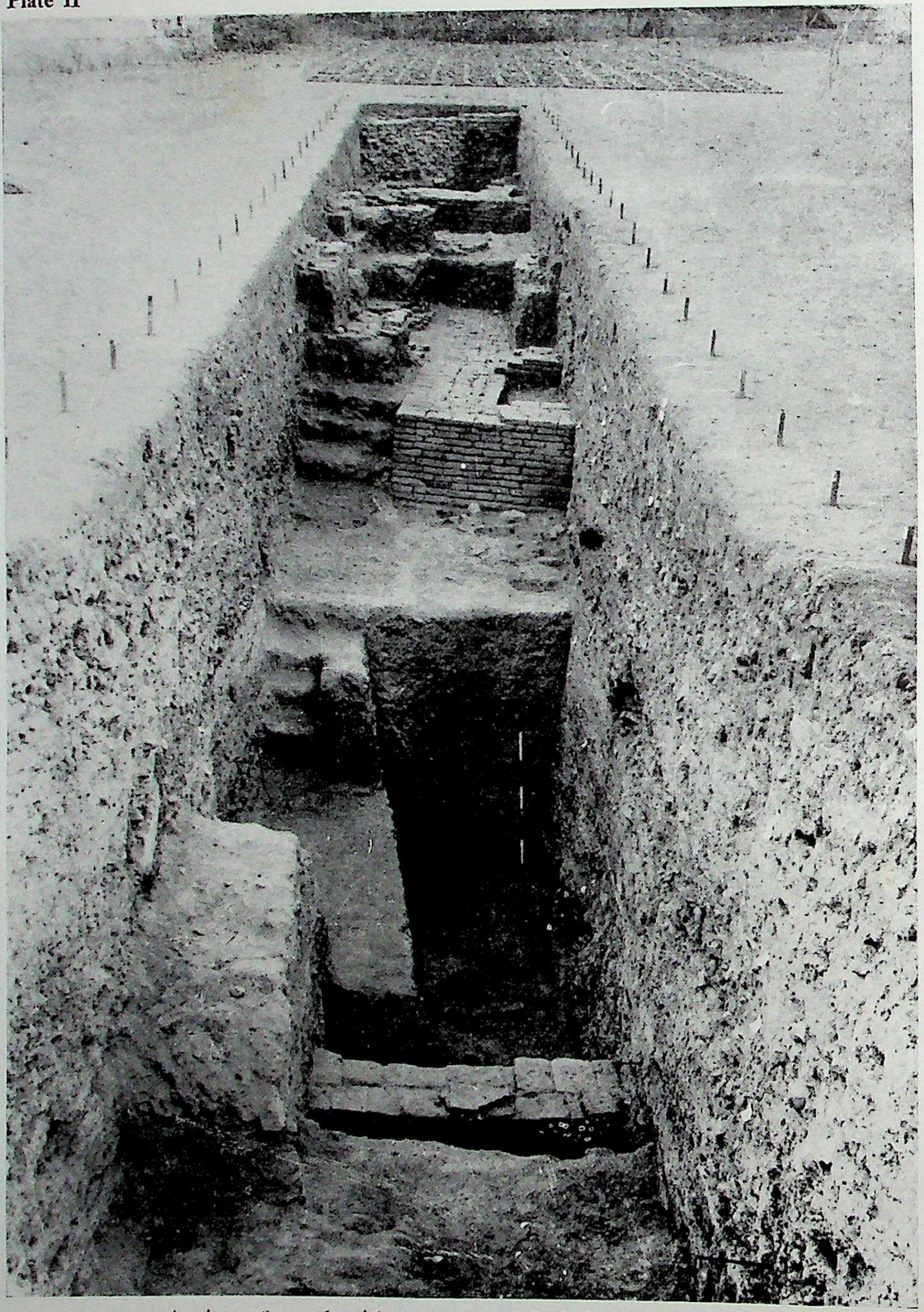
Time	*Layers*	*Period*
A.D. 1800 A.D. 1500	Layers 1-3	III
A.D. 1000 A.D. 400	Layers 4-7	II A
A.D. 400 A.D. 50	Layers 8 to 11	II
A.D. 50 A.D. 00	Layers 11A, 12, 13	I

It may be possible that the period I which is separated in this trench and could structurally be proved, may be deceptive so far as the other aspects of material culture are concerned. Because of the limited nature of the excavations of these layers, the information is meagre, hence, further work in this region will establish whether the material culture of Period I and II is separate or similar. Similarly the separation of Period II and IIa rest on the absence of Roman amphorae only.



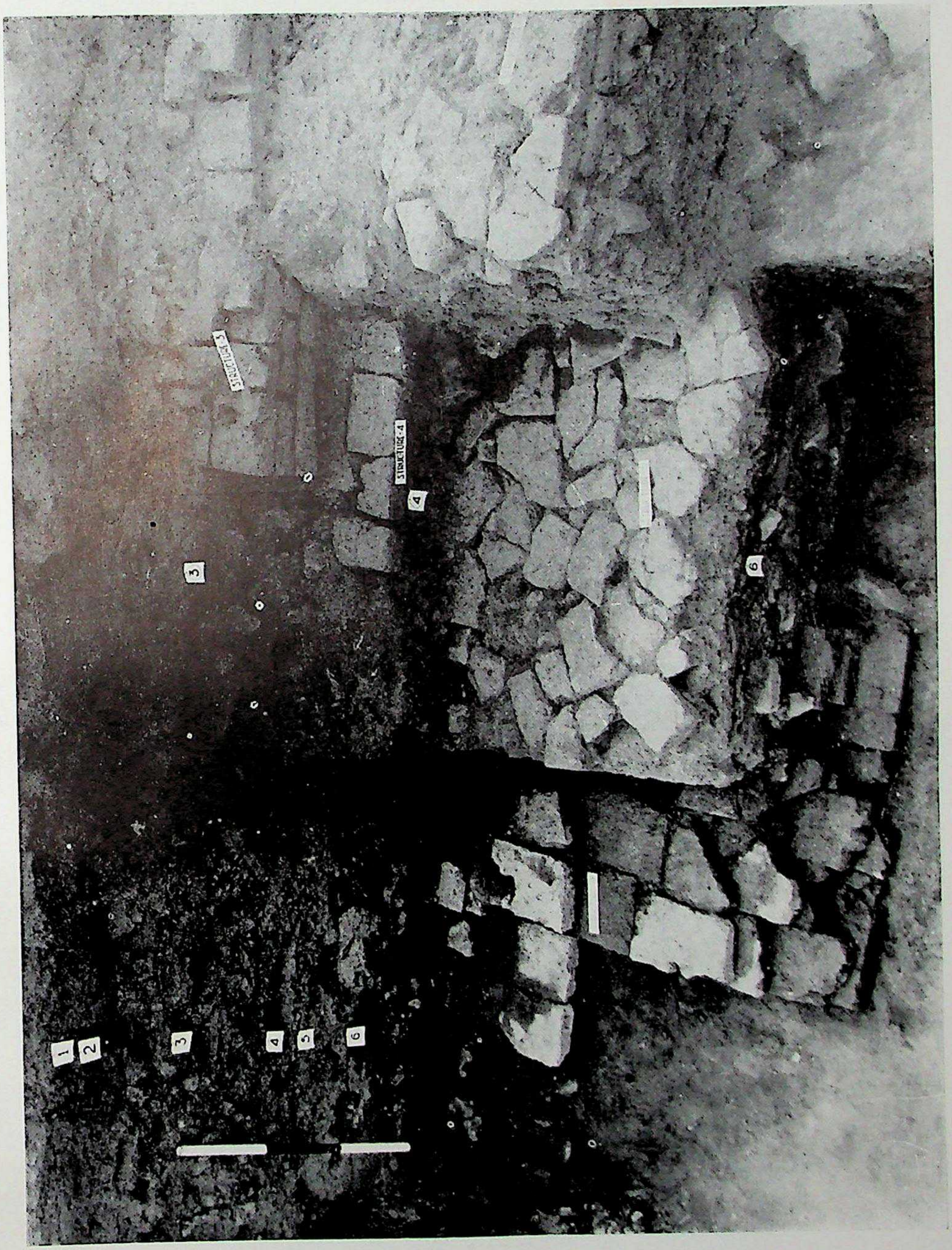
Shamalaji from South-West.

Plate II



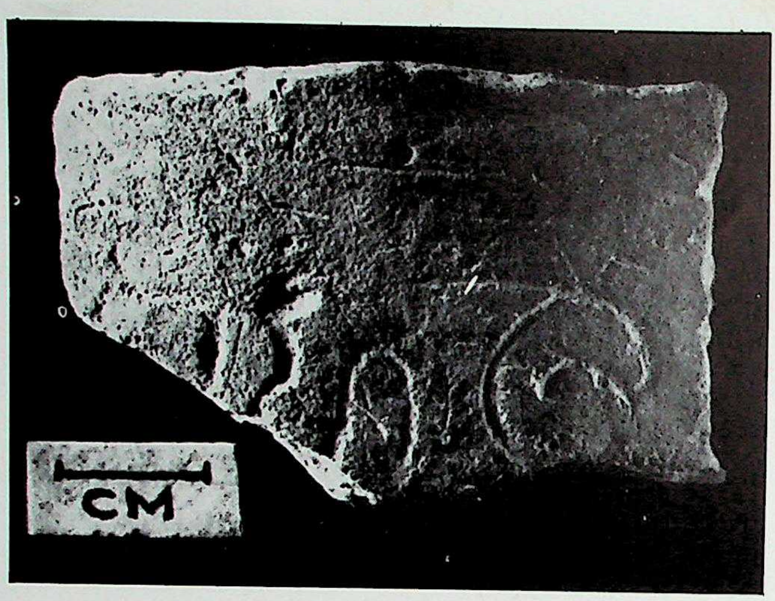
A view of trench with structures of Periods III, IIa and II.

Plate III

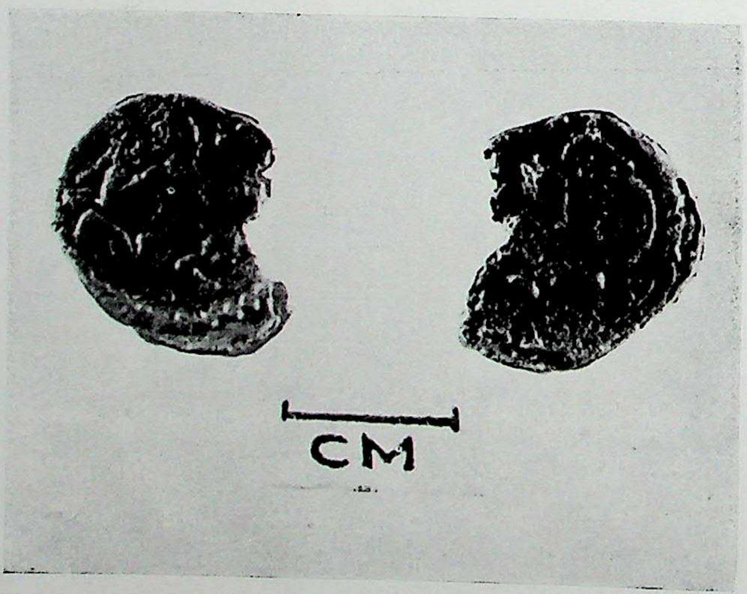

STRUCTURE-5
STRUCTURE-4
4
3
6
1
2
3
4
5
6

Superimposed Structures of Period III & II A.

Plate IV

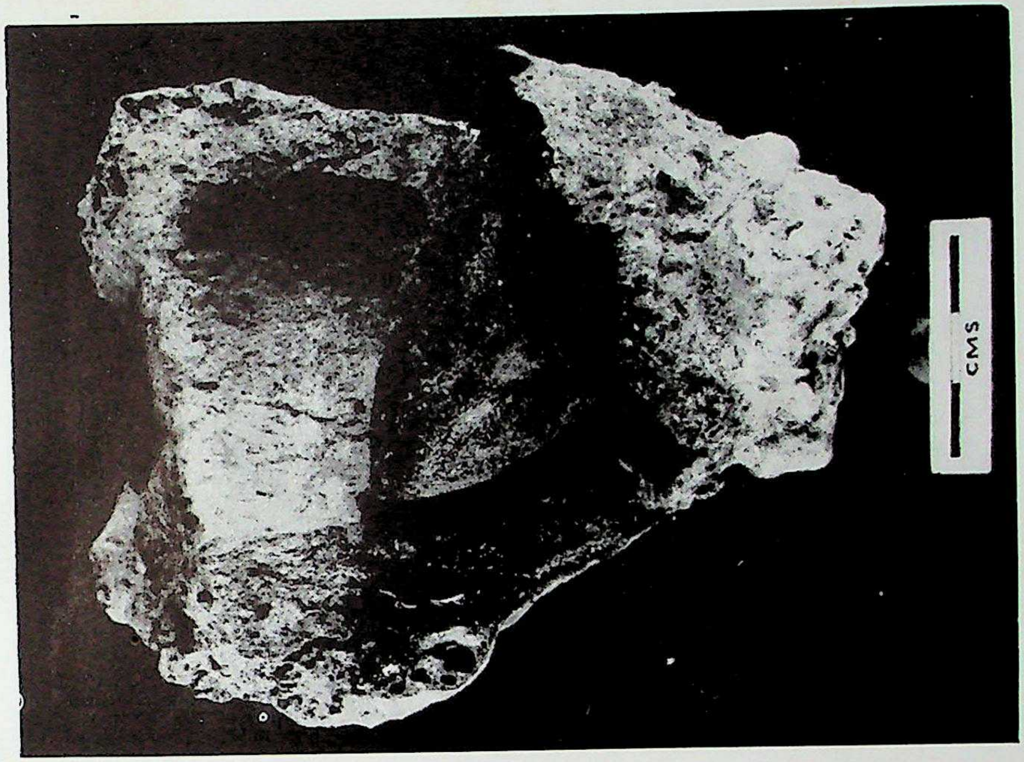


A. Pot-sherd with inscribed letters.

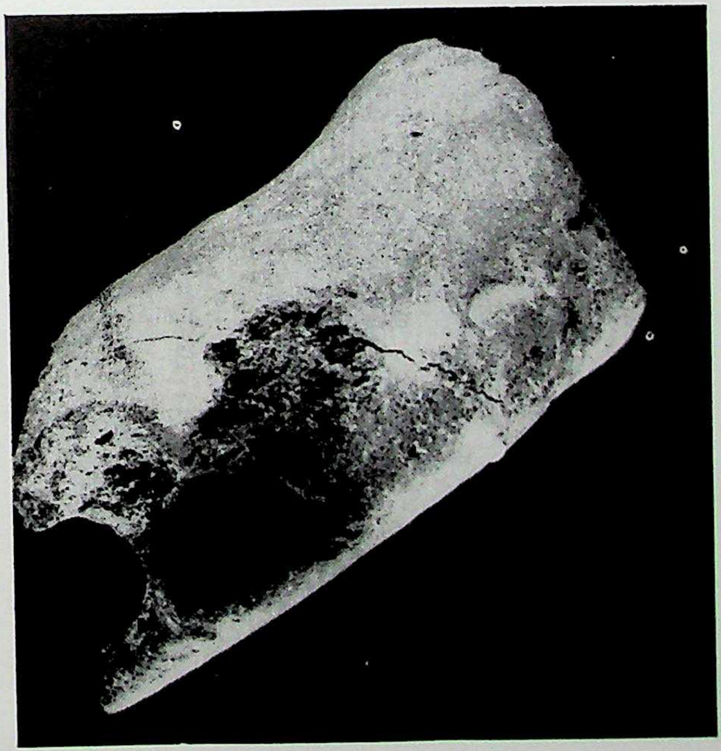


B. Lead Coin.

Plate V



Crucible with slag



Tuyere

CHAPTER III

STRUCTURES

All the structures, that were found in the course of the excavation, were made of bricks and mud was used as cementing material. The details of the nineteen structures are as follows:

Period I

Structure 1

It was a wall of four courses of unburnt bricks seen only in the section of the trench in sub-square *Y*. It was raised on the natural black earth (layer (14)) and represented the first building activity in this area, near the bank of the river Meshvo.

Structure 2 (Fig. 4)

It was a structure, represented in the trench in sub-square *Y* by a small room, a part of which was buried by the fort-wall. Built of burnt bricks, this structure represented the first burnt-brick structure in this trench.

Period II

Structure 3 (Fig. 5)

It was represented by a wall of eleven courses seen in the section facing west in sub-square X, Y. It was built just near the fort-wall in its first phase. Both the fort and this structure were built on the same layer and hence they might be contemporary.

Structure 4 (Fig. 2)

It was represented by a huge wall with thirty nine courses still existing. It was a portion of the fort-wall of Shamalaji, seen in sub-square Z. Its lower 28 courses were sub-divided by a recess of three courses noted after the 14th course. The layer (11) below this ledge was a debris of brick bats which suggested that the fort was probably destroyed and re-built from this feature upwards. There was a

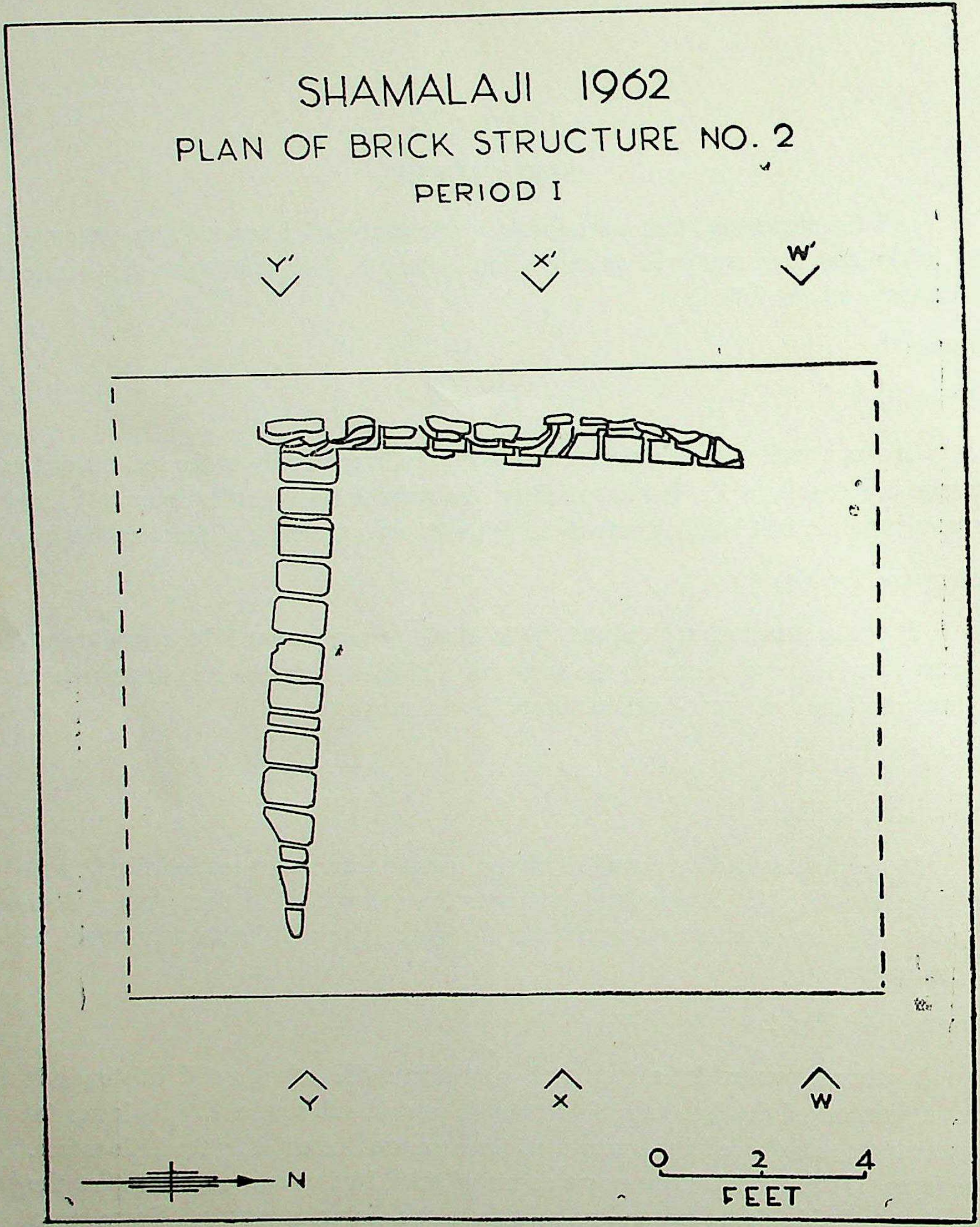

SHAMALAJI 1962
PLAN OF BRICK STRUCTURE NO. 2
PERIOD I
Y'
X'
W'
Y
X
W
N
0
2
4
FEET

Fig. 4.

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distinct break in this wall after courses 28. This break was represented by a gap with mud-filling and a few post-holes sunk from this point in the lower courses.

Above this break the fort-wall had other eleven courses. This phenomena indicated that the fort-wall was damaged once more, and repaired before it fell in complete disuse.

Structure 5

It was represented by a wall of six courses of burnt-bricks in sub-square X. It was built on the debris of the first phase of the fort-wall represented by layer (11).

Structure 6

This structure was represented by a flooring of bricks and walls in sub-squares P, R, S, T, U. It was lying to the north of structure 5 and rested on the same layer as the latter. Both of them were sealed also by the layer (9).

Structure 7

It was represented by a wall of bricks and brick-bats running in the north-south direction in sub-squares U, V, W, X. Its south-western corner was also traced. Only its four courses were existing, resting on layer (9) and sealed by layer (6). This structure was probably raised after the final destruction of the fort.

Structure 8 (Fig. 6)

It was represented by an east-west wall of three courses in sub-square U. Like structure 7 it was resting on layer (9) and was sealed by layer (7), which indicated that its life was shorter than that of structure 7.

Period IIA

Structure 9

It had a large hearth and a platform of the bricks. It might not be a house, but might only be an occupation layer, outside the residential structures. But the brick platform resting on layer (8) was a constructional feature which led one to classify this occupational feature as a structure. The hearth was cut into layer (8). These features indicated that it was raised after the destruction of the fort.

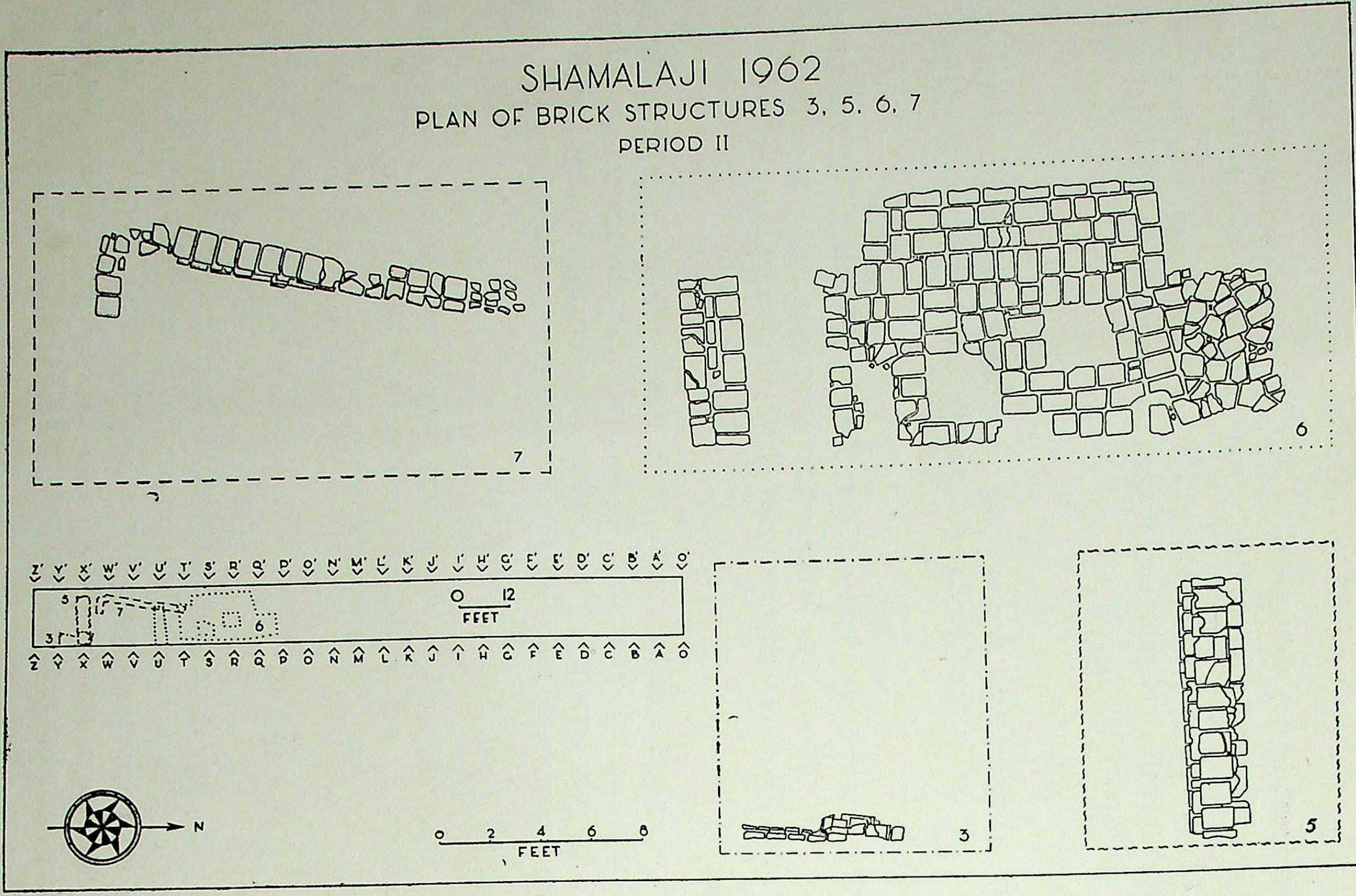

SHAMALAJI 1962
PLAN OF BRICK STRUCTURES 3, 5, 6, 7
PERIOD II
7
6
3
5
Z' Y' X' W' V' U' T' S' R' Q' P' O' N' M' L' K' J' I' H' G' F' E' D' C' B' A' O'
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A O
0 12
FEET
0 2 4 6 8
FEET
N

Fig. 5.

Structure 10

The remains of a house, having fifteen courses of bricks indicated that it had at least three rooms, that were in the trench in sub-squares L, M, N, O. Its walls were about 4′-00″ broad. This substantial structure was built after the destruction of the fort, and seem to have a longer life in comparison to a few others in the same area, as it rested on layer (8) and was sealed by (5a).

Structure 11

This was also a large structure similar to No. 10, seen in sub-squares C, D, E. The remains of fourteen courses of bricks and at least three rooms and probably a door way facing north were noted. It was sealed by layer (4) and was resting on layer (7).

Structure 12

A wall running north-south and a platform of single course were found in the sub-squares J and K. They represented the remains of a house resting on layer (6) and it was sealed by layer (4).

Structure 13

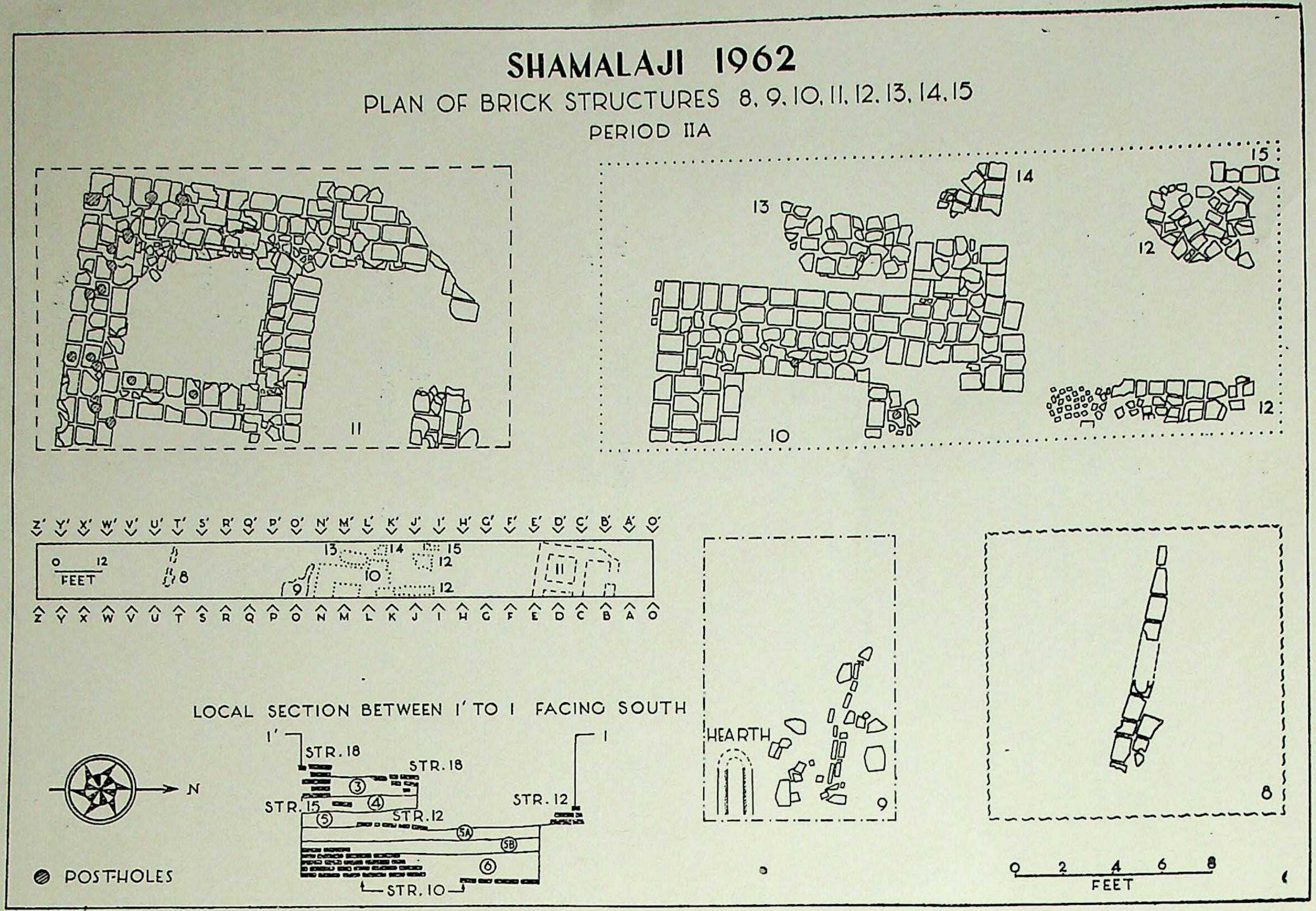
This was a small platform observed in sub-square M. Its two courses were noted. It might represent a platform for indeterminate use, resting on layer (5a) and sealed by layer (5).

Structure 14

A portion of a wall of brick-bats was the only evidence of this structure running in the north-south direction. It rested on layer (5) in sub-square L. It was sealed by layer (3).

Structure 15

This was represented by a platform, resting on layer (5) in sub-square J. It was also sealed by layer (3).


SHAMALAJI 1962
PLAN OF BRICK STRUCTURES 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15
PERIOD IIA
11
13
14
15
12
10
12
Z' Y' X' W' V' U' T' S' R' Q' P' O' N' M' L' K' J' I' H' G' F' E' D' C' B' A' O'
0 12 FEET
8
13
14
15
12
10
9
12
11
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A O
HEARTH
9
8
LOCAL SECTION BETWEEN I' TO I FACING SOUTH
I'
I
STR. 18
STR. 18
STR. 15
STR. 12
STR. 12
STR. 10
3
4
5
5A
5B
6
N
POST-HOLES
0 2 4 6 8
FEET

Periods II & IIA. Fig. 6.

Period III

Structure 16 (Fig. 7)

A substantial structure with three courses of bricks, brick-bats and pebbles had its wall eight feet broad in sub-squares Y, Z. As other parts of this wall were not obtained, its use cannot be predicted. It was built on the cliff of the Meshvo. It rested on layer (4) and was sealed by layer (2).

Structure 17

It was a wall of two courses of brick-bats in sub-squares L, M, N. It rested on layer (4) and was sealed by layer (2).

Structure 18

This was represented probably by a brick-bat paving and wall of the same material in sub-squares J and K. It was resting like 16 and 17 on layer (4) and was sealed by layer (2).

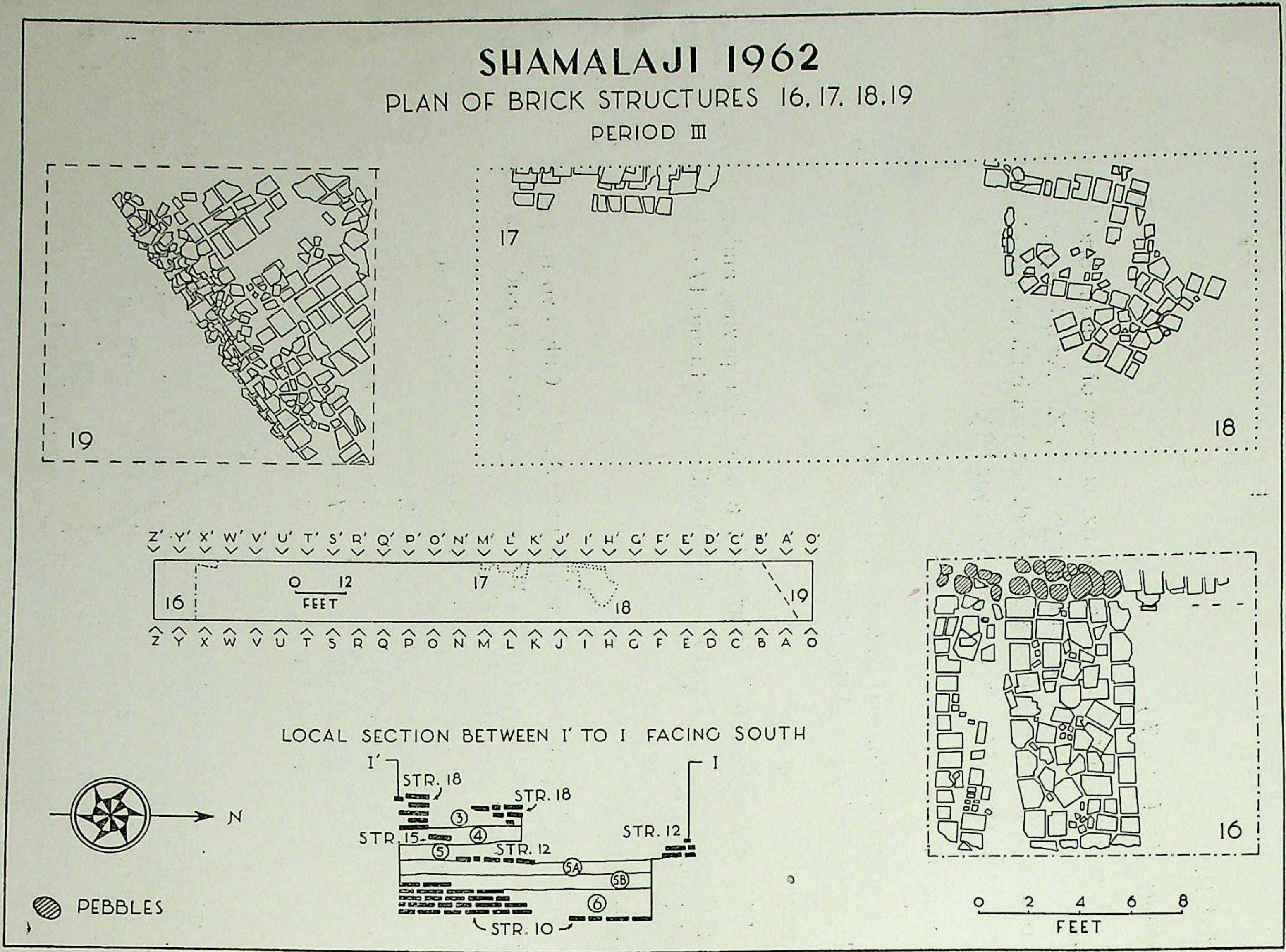
Structure 19

This is a large structure in sub-square A, B. Only two rooms of this house, were seen. Its foundation-trench was sealed by layer (2) and was covered up by layer (1). It had a flooring of bricks.

The structures at Shamalaji had the following distribution:—

Period I	2 structures
Period II	6 structures
Period II a	7 structures
Period III	4 structures
	19 Total

This distribution indicates that the highest number of structures belonged to the periods II & IIa, which were of intense activity. Period III was not so active as periods II & IIa. As very small portion of the deposits of Period I were exposed, relative activity cannot be precisely judged. In period III however much older material that was available just for digging, seem to have been utilized.



SHAMALAJI 1962

PLAN OF BRICK STRUCTURES 16, 17, 18, 19

PERIOD III

19
17
18
Z' Y' X' W' V' U' T' S' R' Q' P' O' N' M' L' K' J' I' H' G' F' E' D' C' B' A' O'
16
0 12
FEET
17
18
19
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A O
LOCAL SECTION BETWEEN I' TO I FACING SOUTH
I'
I
STR. 18
STR. 18
STR. 15
STR. 12
STR. 12
STR. 10
③
④
⑤
5A
5B
⑥
N
PEBBLES
16
0 2 4 6 8
FEET

Fig. 7.

CHAPTER IV

Pottery

Introduction

From the Shamalaji excavations the following pottery types were noted:—

(1) Plain red ware,
(2) Burnished red ware,
(3) Plain black ware,
(4) Burnished black ware,
(5) Crude red and black ware,
(6) Red polished ware,
(7) Black glazed ware,
(8) Micaceous ware,
(9) Muslim glazed ware,
(10) Amphorae,
(11) Painted red ware
(12) Embossed red ware.

Out of these types the first four were very common and were found in almost all layers. But the Crude red and black ware was seen from layer 11 upwards. The Red polished ware was noted from layer 12 upwards. The Black glazed ware which was similar in fabric to the Red polished ware, occurred in small quantities along with it. The Micaceous ware was also found from layer 9. The Muslim glazed ware was confined to the upper layers only. The Painted red ware was observed from layer 12 upwards. But the amphorae sherds were limited to layers 11, 10, 9 and 8. The Embossed red ware was obtained from layer 10 and continued upto layer 3.

In many types such as the Amphorae, Embossed red ware and Black Glazed ware, the sherds that were collected do not throw any light on the shapes of the pots. The other types for which, the whole pots or rims or bases or other recognisable parts were obtained are described below:—

Plain Black and Burnished Black Ware

The Plain and Burnished black wares are of different shades. They are utilitarian wheel turned pottery in which lids, handlis,[1] bowls, matla,[2] spouted vessels, dishes etc. are found.

Lids (*Dhankana*[3])

Among lids three types are observed (Fig. 8).

(1) The first type is a simple lid with a solid knob at the top and almost flat plain rim and grooves developed by potters' fingers. The sides of the lid near the rim are decorated by three incised lines.

(2) The second type is bell-shaped lid with very well developed knob. This type was fragmentary and was represented by knobs and fragments of the rim of its bell-shaped body. Out of these, two types of knobs are noted here (2, 3). These were obtained from the upper layers only.

(4) The third type has a solid knob in the centre of the inner side of the lid. This is the earliest lid type at Shamalaji. It occurred from layer 9. Similar type occurs at Nagara in layers that could be ascribed to the early centuries of Christian Era.

Pots (*Handli, Ghada*[4] & *Matla*)

Besides lids, the pottery consists of pots known as *Handli*, *Ghada* and *Matla*. The following shapes are noted in these types.

(5) An upper part of a pot with short neck, beaked rim, an upraised line on the shoulder on both sides, and a shallow groove inside the pot, below the rim.

(6) A thick pot with excurved rim with rectangular section and short neck. It has three shallow grooves on the rim.

(7) A variant of 6.

(8) A variant of 6.

---

[1] Handli (हांडली) or Handi (हांडी) are broad mouthed, short-necked vessels, which are used for cooking, making curds etc. The word is derived from Sanskrit Haṅdikā (हंडिका).

[2] Matla (माटलां singular माटलुं) a large earthen pot for storing water.

[3] Dhankana (ढांकणां singular ढांकणुं) is a lid or cover from √ ढक् meaning to cover.

[4] Ghada (घडा singular घडो) is a small water pot which is used to bring water and store it.

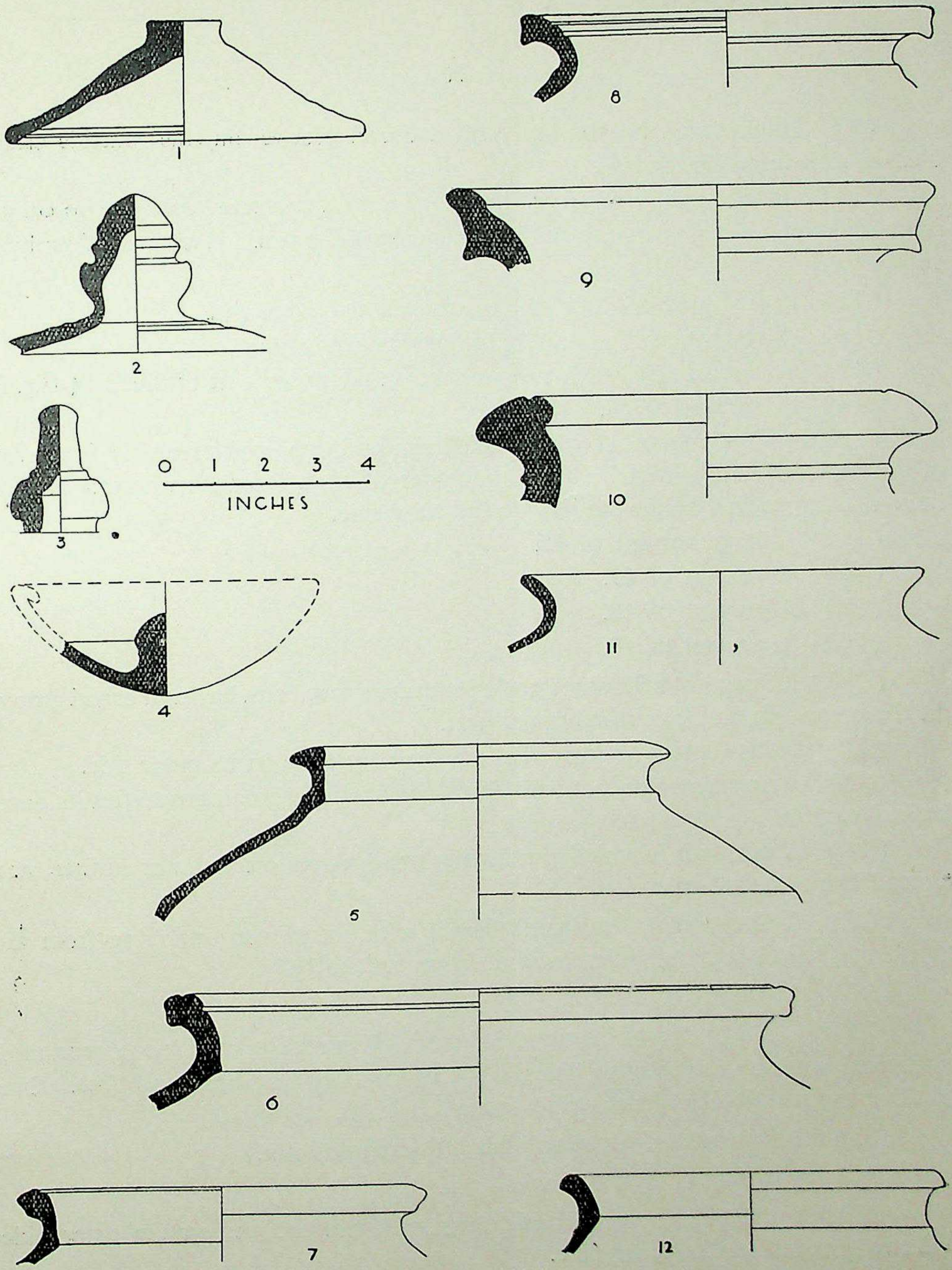

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES

Fig. 8.

(9) Thick flared beaked rim with a broad groove on the outside and a shallow groove inside the rim.

(10) Thick slightly excurved beaked rim with a pronounced groove on the inner side and a shallow groove on the upper side of the rim. It has a shallow ledge on the neck.

(11) A fragment of a pot with short-neck and flared rim.

(12) A variant of 11 with flared slightly beaked rim.

(13) A variant of 12 with two grooves on the upper part of the rim (Fig. 9).

(14) A variant of 13.

(15-16) Variants of 11 with beaded rim and two grooves on the inner side of the pots. No. 15 has incised semitriangular dots on the neck whereas No. 16 has a shallow groove below the rim on the outer side.

(17) A large variant of 16.

(18) A variant of 17.

(19) A variant of 18.

(20) A variant of 17.

(21) A large pot with short neck, beaded excurved rim having a broad groove on the inner side and burnished upper part.

(22) A large pot with beaded rim having a groove on its outer side.

(23) A fragment of a pot with flared rim having a broad groove on its outer beaked surface.

(24) A pot with incurved rim having two grooves on its outer surface, and a small beak beyond them.

(25) A fragment of carinated *handli* with flared rim springing from the shoulder. It has semitriangular incised design on the belly.

(26) A variant of 25.

(27-32) Fragments of the carinated parts of probably *handlis* are decorated by incised patterns representing lines, oblique lines, zig zag lines and dots. One of these types (No. 28) has double carination on it. (Fig. 10)

(33) A fragment of a pot with slightly excurved rim.

(34) A variant of 33 with beaked rim.

(35) A pot with excurved beaked rim with two grooves on the outer side and two grooves on the inner side.

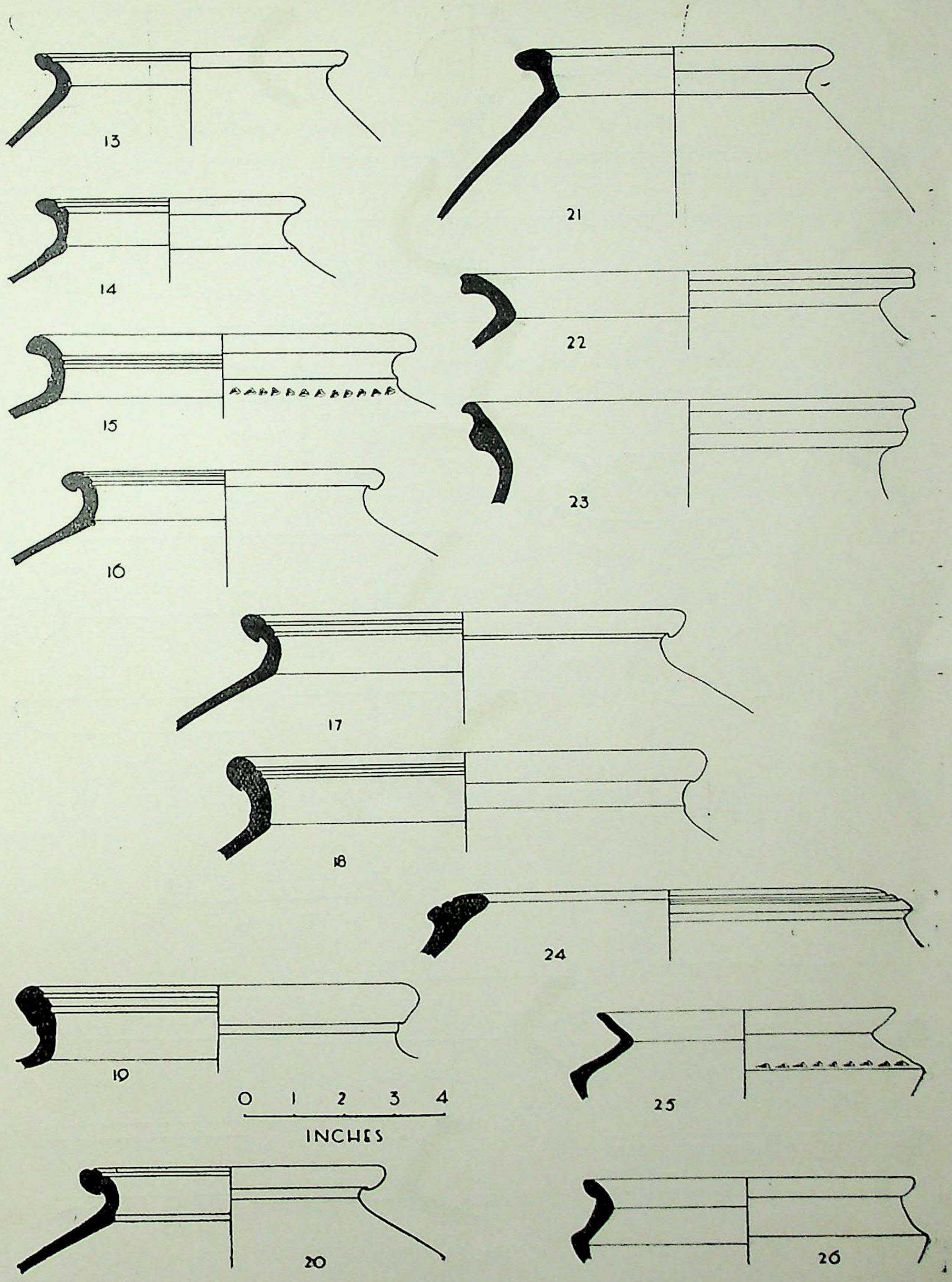

13
21
14
22
15
23
16
17
18
24
19
25
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES
20
26

Fig. 9

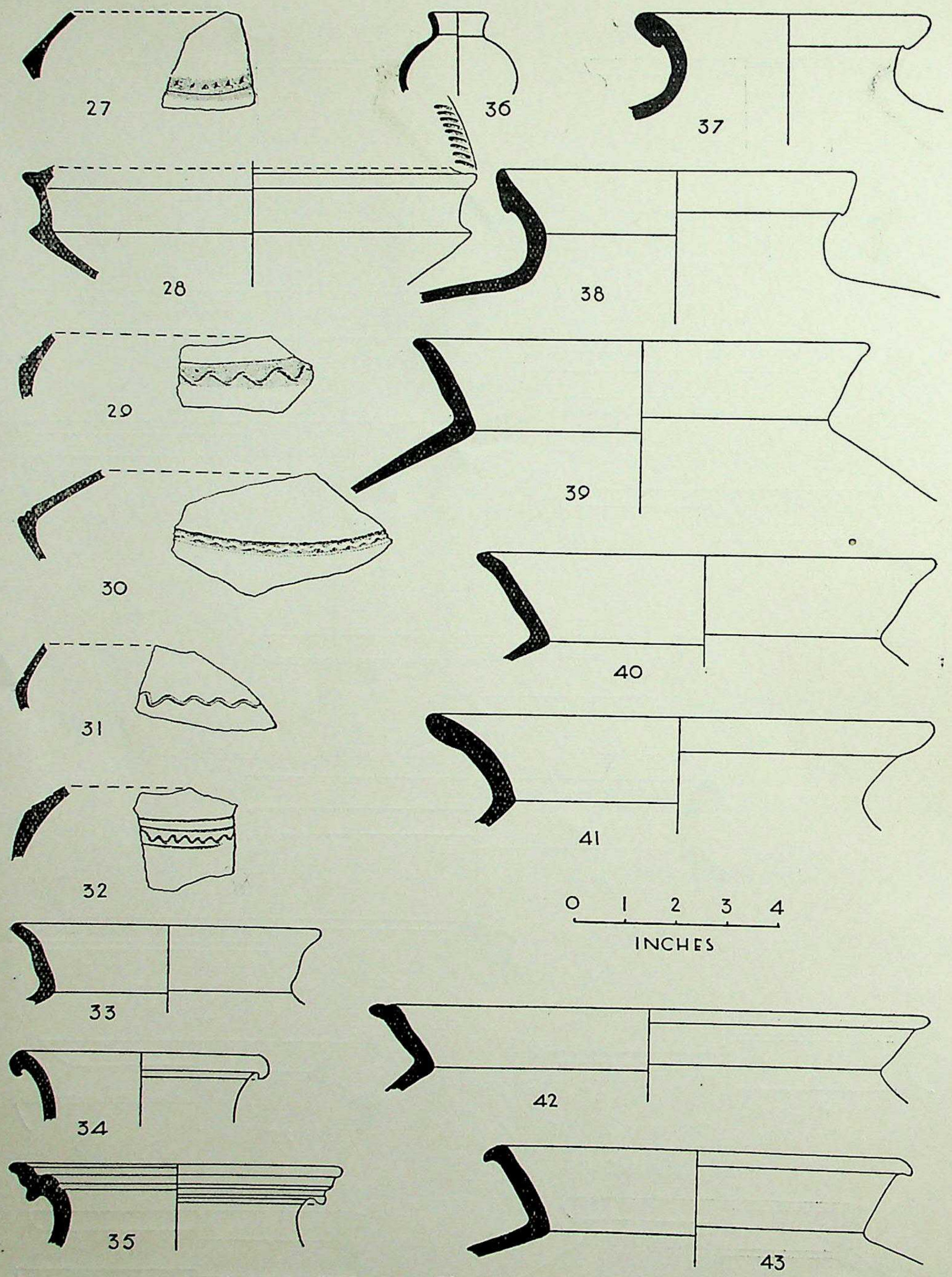

27
36
37
28
38
29
39
30
40
31
41
32
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES
33
42
34
35
43

Fig. 10

(36) A small *Kuladi*[5] with round body and flared rim.

(37) An upper part of a pot with flared beaded rim with a groove below the rim on outer side.

(38) A fragment of a pot with flared, flattened beaded rim.

(39) A large mouthed pot with flared rim.

(40) A variant of 39.

(41) A variant of 39.

(42) A large mouthed pot with flared beaked rim.

(43) A pot with flared beaked rim.

Dishes

(44) A deep dish with featureless rim. It can be also classified as a bowl (Fig. 11).

(45) Dish with hammer-headed rim and carinated shoulder.

(46) A shallow dish with incurved featureless rim and flanged side.

Bowls

(47) A deep bowl with highly beaded rim and a shallow groove on the outside below it.

(48) A deep bowl with incurved featureless rim.

(49) A bowl with incurved rim, having a small flange on the outside and sagger base.

(50) A variant of 49 with disc base.

(51) A variant of 50.

(52) A variant of 50.

(53) A variant of 50.

Burnished red and Plain red wares

These are other characteristic wares which are found in all periods. Bowls, lids, pots, large storage jars are usually found in these types. These utilitarian wheel turned wares have the following shapes:—

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[5] Kuladi (कुल्डी) is a small earthen vessel, usually a toy, occasionally used for storing small objects.

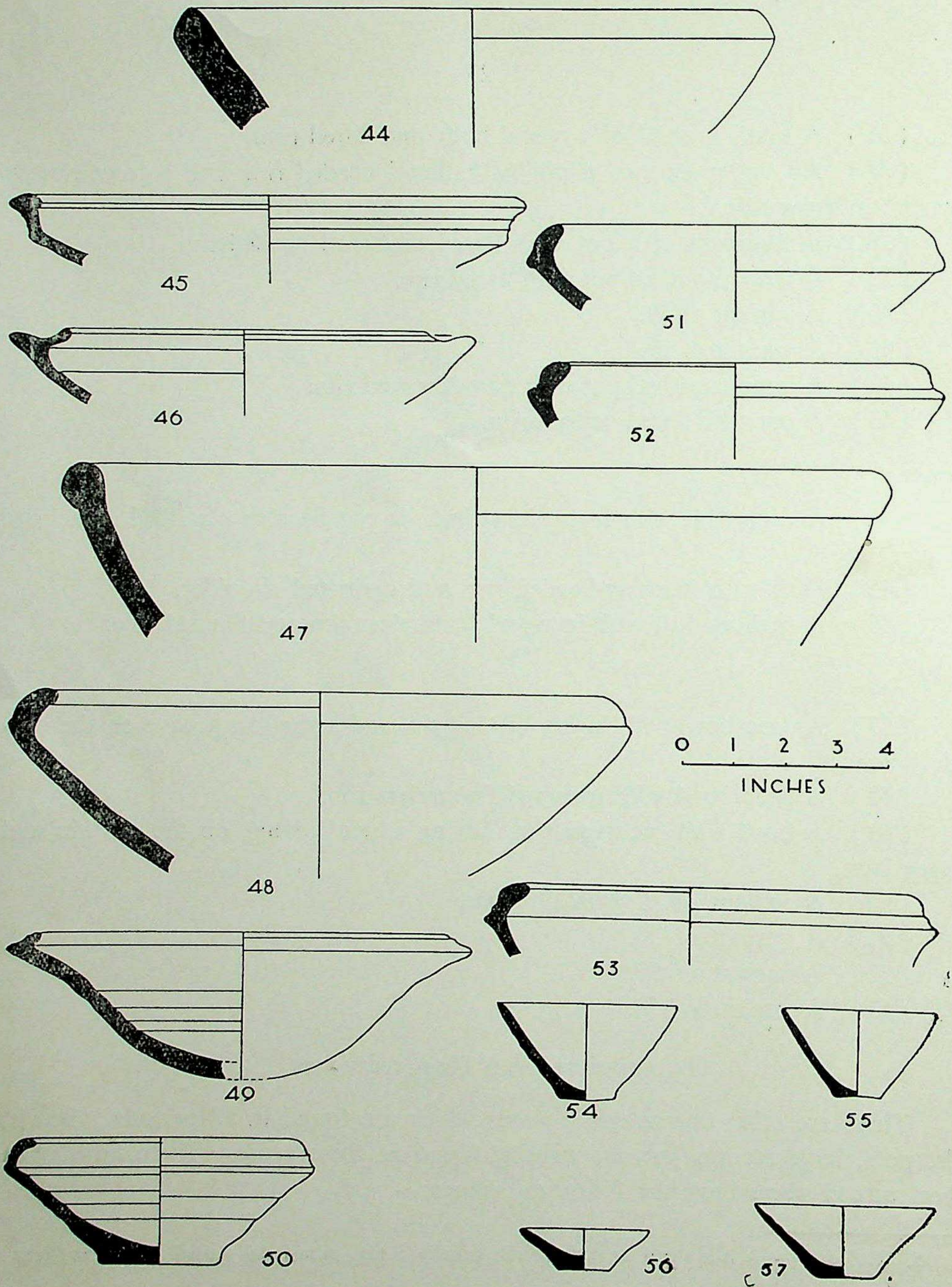
44
45
51
46
52
47
48
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES
49
53
54
55
50
56
57

Fig. 11

Bowls

(54 to 58) The most common shape of this type has disc base, featureless rim and potters' fingers on the body. It clearly reveals the thread marks on the base. It was found from the deposits of period II, IIA and III. It differs in size and is known as *Kodiyun*.[6] The manufacturers often show carelessness in making them as could be judged by the specimens (Fig. 12).

(59) It depicts that the rim was pressed while taking it down from the wheel.

(60) This is similar to the type, No. 49 and 50.

(61) A deep bowl with excurved rim, convex belly and flat base, the centre of which was cut out, what was the purpose of cutting it out could not be ascertained.

(62, 63, 64) Bowls with flat bases.

(65) It is a large fragment of a deep bowl (*Kundu*) with flat base slightly incurved rim having a broad groove on its outer surface.

(68) A bowl with excurved beaded rim with a small groove on the outer surface.

(69) A variant of 53.

Dishes (?)

(66, 67) Two sherds 66-67 with flat base and rectangular or round shape were obtained from layers (8) and (4). These are classified here as dishes but they may be parts of votive tanks or large vases.

Lids

Only two types of lids were obtained. One of them is similar to the third type of Black ware lid. The second type is represented by a solid top knob.

Incense-burners

(70-71) Two types of incense burners were obtained from the deposits of periods II and IIA layer (9) and (7). One of them (70) is a small burner with flat solid base, but its upper part is broken. The other is a *Damaru*-shaped burner with hollow base, decorated middle and slightly incurved rim. The decoration at the middle consists of finger-tipped designs (Fig. 13).

---

[6] Kodiyun (कोडियुं plural कोडियां) is a small bowl. The other names for larger variety are chappan (चप्पण) and Rampatar (रामपातर).

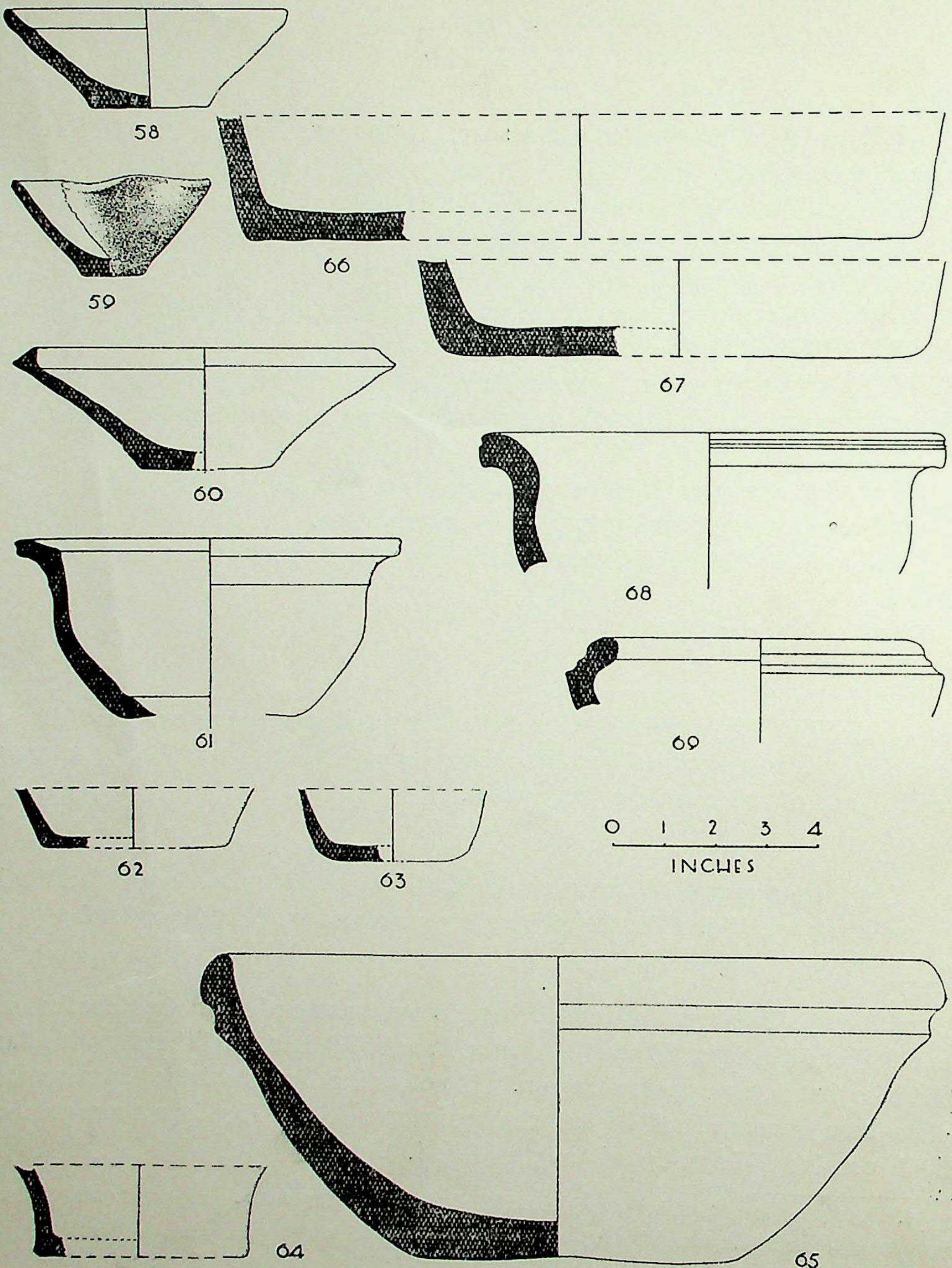
58
59
66
67
60
68
61
69
62
63
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES
64
65

Fig. 12

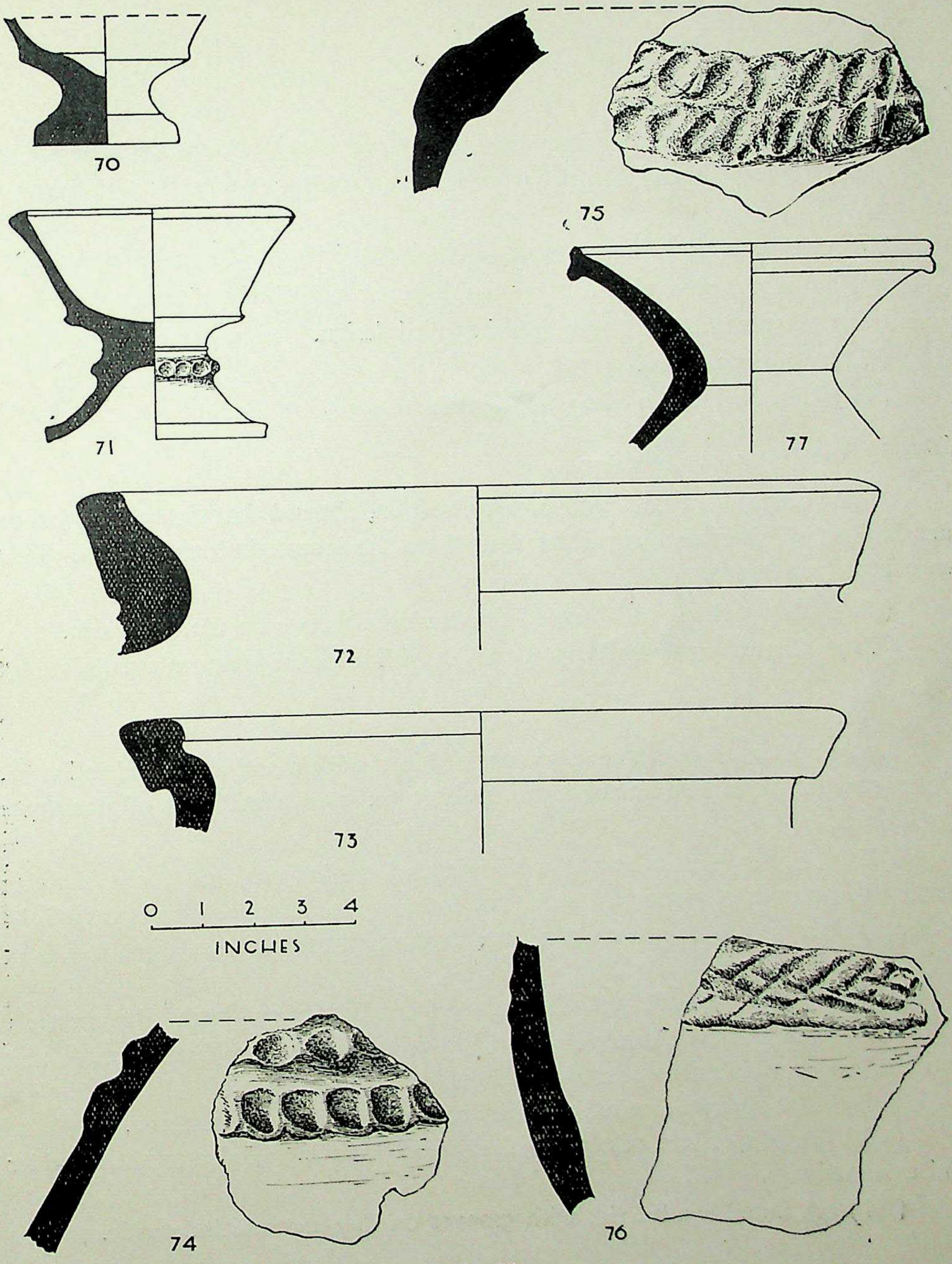
70
75
71
77
72
73
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES
74
76

Fig. 13

Jars

Thick storage jars were represented by the nondescript sherds and a few rims.

(72) One of them is a thick excurved rim and one groove below it on the outer surface.

(73) It is smaller than number 72 but has a deep groove on the inner side.

Besides these, three sherds show the designs on the body of jars.

(74) Represents the finger-tipped applied design.

(75) Variant of 74.

(76) Applied design of criss-cross lines.

Stands

A few parts of objects with concave section, showed that the central portion was hollow. This feature separates them from the incense-burners. These might have been pot-stands.

(77) A pot-stand with beaded rim having a groove on the outer side.

(78) Central portion of a pot-stand (?) with incised zig-zag pattern (Fig. 14).

Pots

Large and small pots were also obtained in the Plain and Burnished red ware. Complete specimens were not obtained in this type. But upper parts of many pots are known.

(79) Upper part of a pot with excurved beaded rim and body showing partly the grooves of potter's fingers, but towards the lower portion signs of the dabber are visible on the outer surface suggesting that they were enlarged at a later stage.

(80) Upper part of a pot with excurved beaded rim and rounded short neck.

(81) An excurved beaded rim with a broad groove on the inner side and two shallow grooves on its constricted shoulder.

(82) An excurved beaked rim with a broad groove on inner side.

(83) An upper part of a pot with short neck having a ledge on the shoulder and excurved rim.

(84) A flared beaded rim with grooves on its outer and inner side.

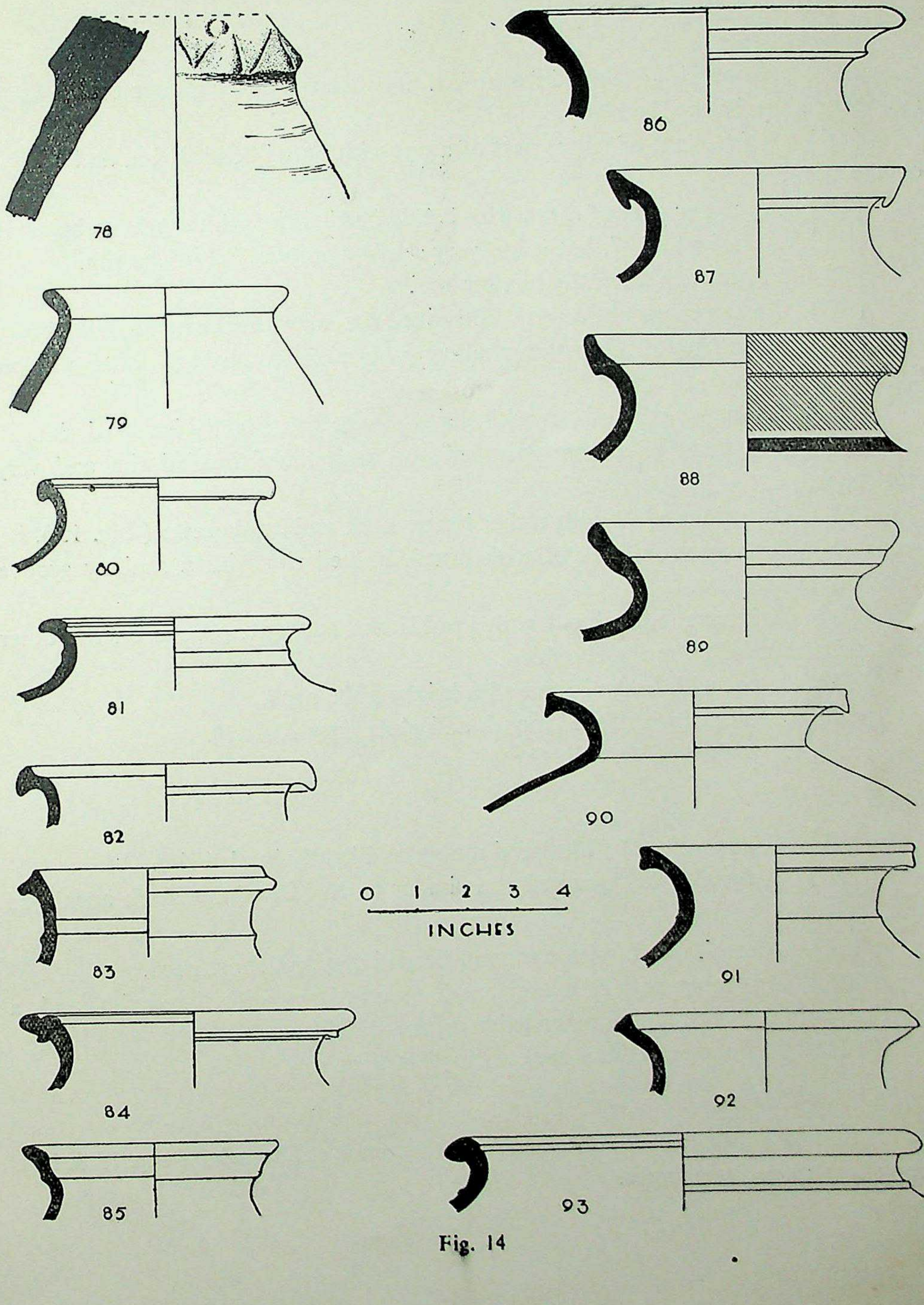
78
79
80
81
82
83
84
85
86
87
88
89
90
91
92
93
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES

Fig. 14

(85) A pot with excurved featureless rim with a shallow groove on the outer and inner sides below the rim.

(86) A fragment of upper part of a pot with flared beaded rim, and a ledge on the neck.

(87) An upper part of a pot with lightly beaded rim with a groove below it.

(88) A variant of 87, but it has very shallow grooves below the rim.

(89) A pot with flared featureless rim.

(90) An upper part of a pot with beaked rim, short neck and rounded body.

(91) A variant of 90, with a shallow groove on the rim and a ledge below the neck.

(92) An upper part of pot with flared mouth and slightly incurved rim.

(93) Fragment of a large mouthed pot, with flared beaded rim and very short neck.

(94) A variant of 93 with rather longer neck and beaded rim (Fig. 15).

(95) A large mouthed pot with flared, beaked rim with a shallow groove on the outer surface.

(96) A large mouthed pot with beaded rim having a groove on the outer side, and a thin ledge on the shoulder.

(97) A pot with beaked rim and a ledge on the neck.

(98) Small pot with flared mouth and plain rim (*Kuladi*).

(99) A variant of 98.

Handli

(100) A large *Handli* with flared mouth and lightly beaded rim.

(101) A *handli* with incurved rim similar to No. 24 of the Black burnished ware.

(102) A small *handli* with excurved beaded rim and short neck.

(103) An upper part of a very small mouthed pot with flared rim and a large ledge on the neck and another ledge on the shoulder.

(104) A fragment of the neck with plain high rim.

Spouts

A number of spouts were obtained from the trench at Shamalaji (Fig. 15 & 16). They show three main types.

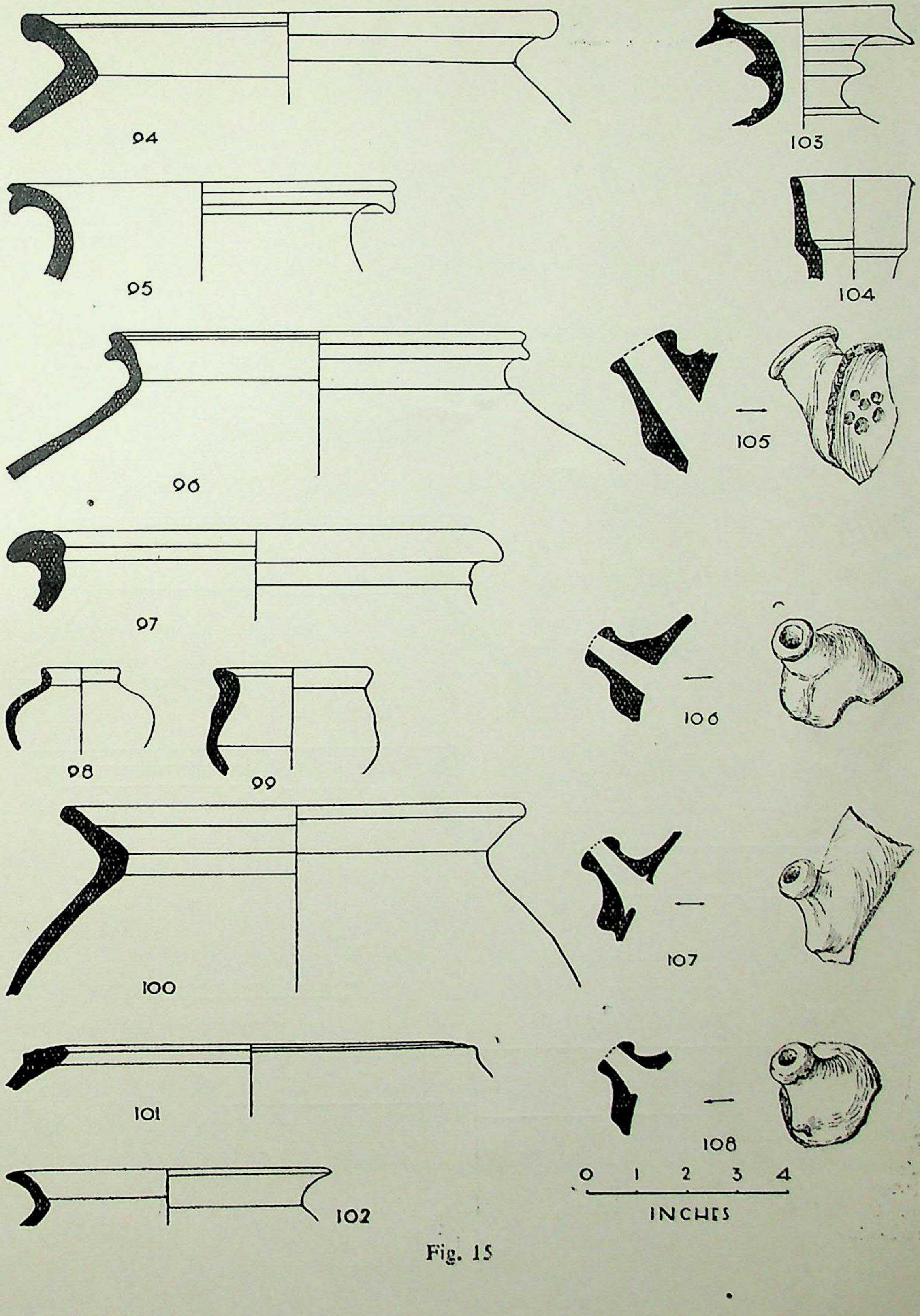
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES

Fig. 15

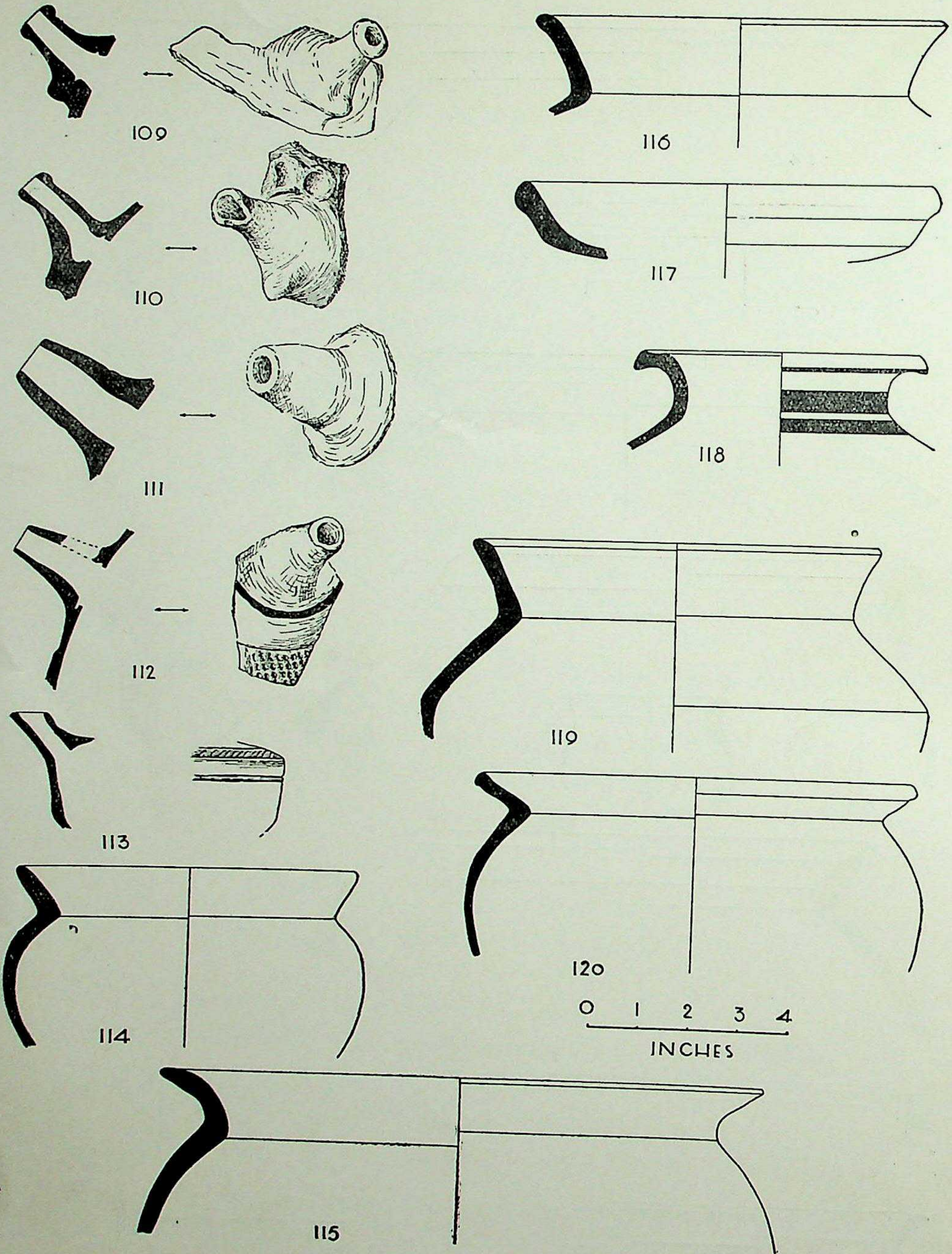
109
110
111
112
113
114
115
116
117
118
119
120
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES

Fig. 16

One of them is a slanting spout with beaded mouth (105 to 110).

The second type is a plain cylindrical spout with featureless mouth. (111, 112).

Third type is plain but shows an elliptical mouth (113).

Crude Red and Black Ware

Crude red and black ware is usually black inside and red outside. In certain cases its outer upper part also shows black colour. The usual shapes in this ware are the pots, dishes, bowls etc. From Shamalaji this pottery was obtained from the deposits of period II and IIA.

Following shapes of this ware, were obtained from the trench:—

Handli

(114) A *Handli* with flare mouth, featureless rim and rounded body.

(115) A large variant of 114 with highly flared rim.

(116) A variant of 115.

Dishes

(117) A dish with beaded rim and a small ledge on the belly.

Micaceous Ware

Pottery with mica-dusted slip is another characteristic ware that was observed from the deposits of Period II, IIA and III. The pots, *handlis*, bowls and dishes are found in this ware.

Pots

(118) A pot with beaked rim and a shallow groove on the upper part having short neck and painted bands in black and white.

(119) A large pot with flared mouth and carination on the upper part of the belly.

Handli

(120) A fragment of a *handli* with flared mouth, rounded rim, and globular body.

(121) A *handli* with flared mouth chamfered rim, a small ledge on the upper part and rounded belly (Fig. 17)

(122) Variant of 121.

(123) Variant of 121.

(124) Variant of 121 with rather vertical body.

(125) Variant of 124.

(126) Variant of 124.

(127) A *handli* with pronounced carination on the upper part.

(128) Variant of 127.

(129) Variant of 127.

Bowls

(130) A deep bowl with incurved rounded rim and carination on the upper part and rounded body.

(131) Variant of 130.

(132) Variant of 130.

Dishes

(133) A shallow dish with incurved rim, carinated shoulder and sagger base.

(134) Variant of 133.

(135) A dish with flared rim and a ledge at the shoulder.

(136) Variant of 135, but it has no ledge.

(137) Decorated neck of a pot.

Red Polished Ware

This is a characteristic ware with finely lavigated clay and brilliant surface. It occurred from layer (10) and continued upto layer (6).

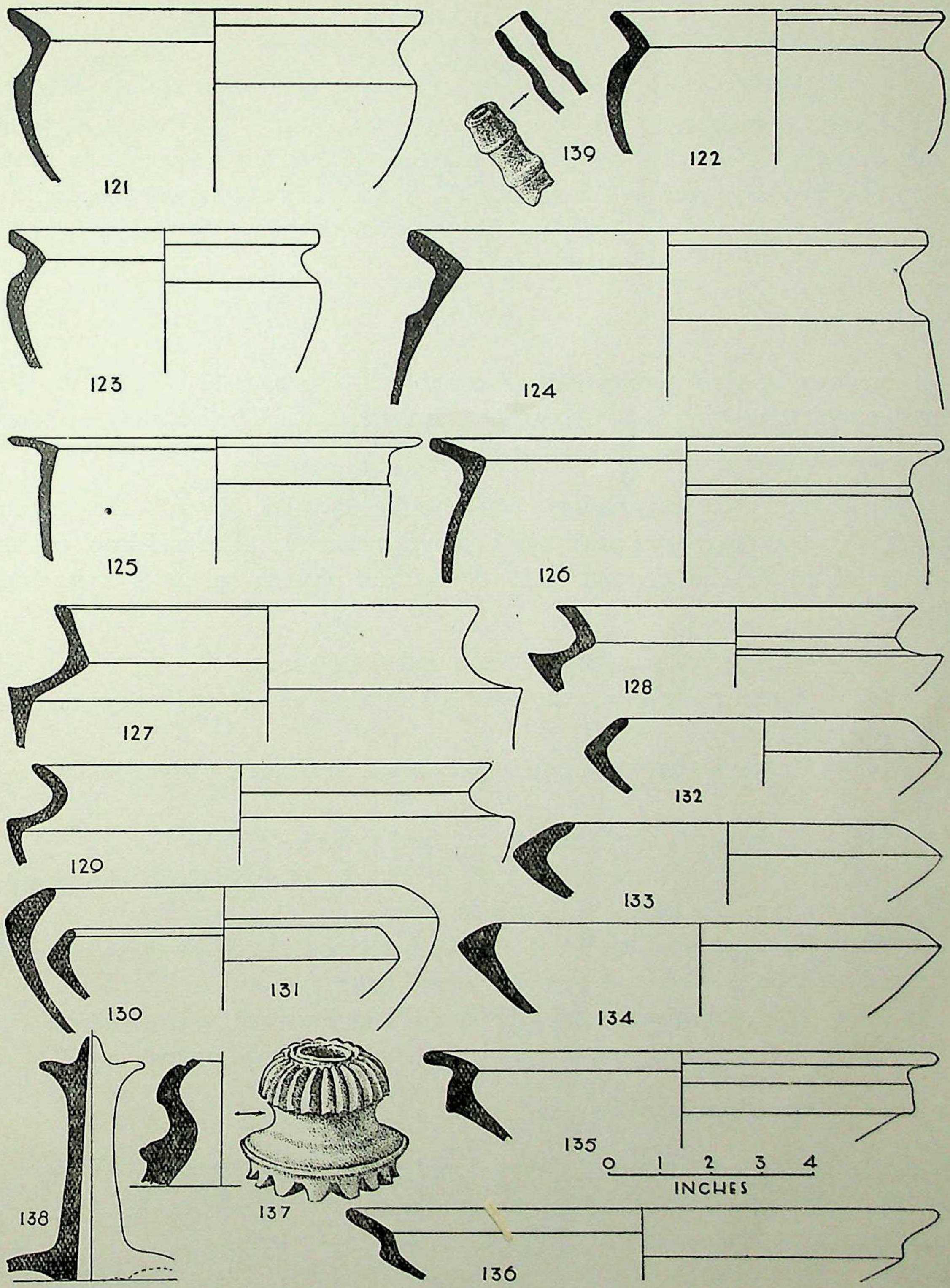
0 1 2 3 4
INCHES

Fig. 17

(138) The long necked type with semi-triangular nipple and dish-shaped lower part is highly characteristic shape in this ware. This is known as a sprinkler. Complete specimens of this shape are comparatively few but fragments are many. On the whole as compared to other wares, this ware occurred in small quantities.

(139) A spout of the Red polished ware with a ledge at the base and beaded mouth.

Painted Pottery

Sherds of painted pottery were obtained from the layer 12 to layer 4. The paintings are executed on Red wares which are burnished. The Red polished wares and Micaceous wares were also painted.

The colours used for painting are the black and white. Usually the painting consists of lines and bands of either black colour or alternate white and black colour. Only one sherd No. 140 showed both systems used on different parts of its body (Fig. 18).

(141) This design is a loop of black and white bands.

(142) Another variant is an indented drawing of black background on which white strokes are applied.

(143) Between two white bands on a black band astral designs in white are drawn.

(144) Astral design in white on red background.

(145) A sherd of black colour with bands of white and black with parallel white lines overlying the bands of the under ground.

(146) Red potsherd with two vertical lines, and the panel thus created is decorated with dots. Below it, is a horizontal band.

(147) Criss-cross fragmentary design of black lines, with white filling.

(148) A fragmentary vertical design probably of some animal motif.

Embossed, Finger-Tipped and Incised Design

Many sherds with embossed, finger-tipped and incised designs were obtained from Shamalaji in Red ware. They occurred from layer (10) onwards. The main designs in these types are noted below (Fig. 19-20):—

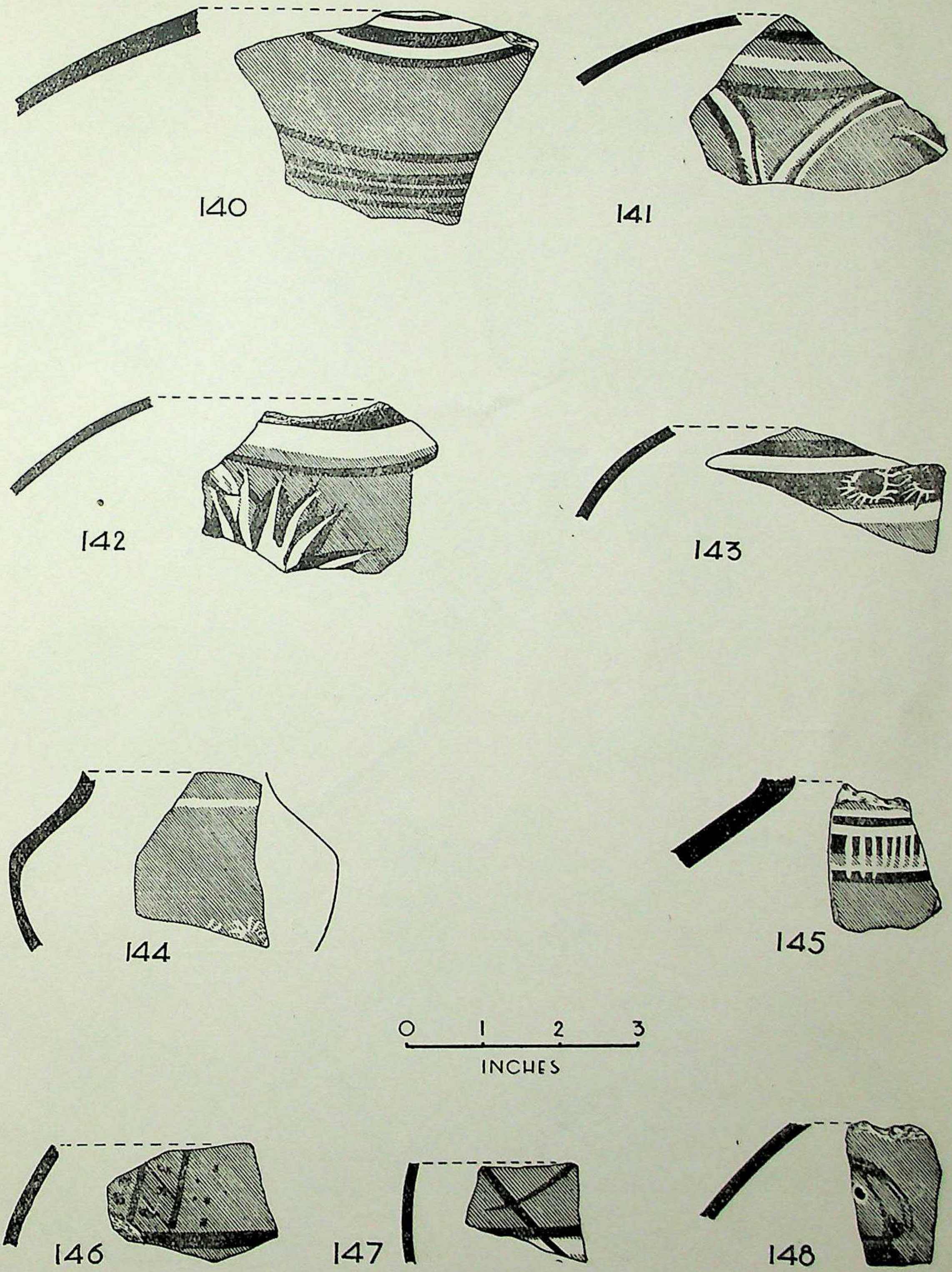
140
141
142
143
144
145
0 1 2 3
INCHES
146
147
148

Fig. 18

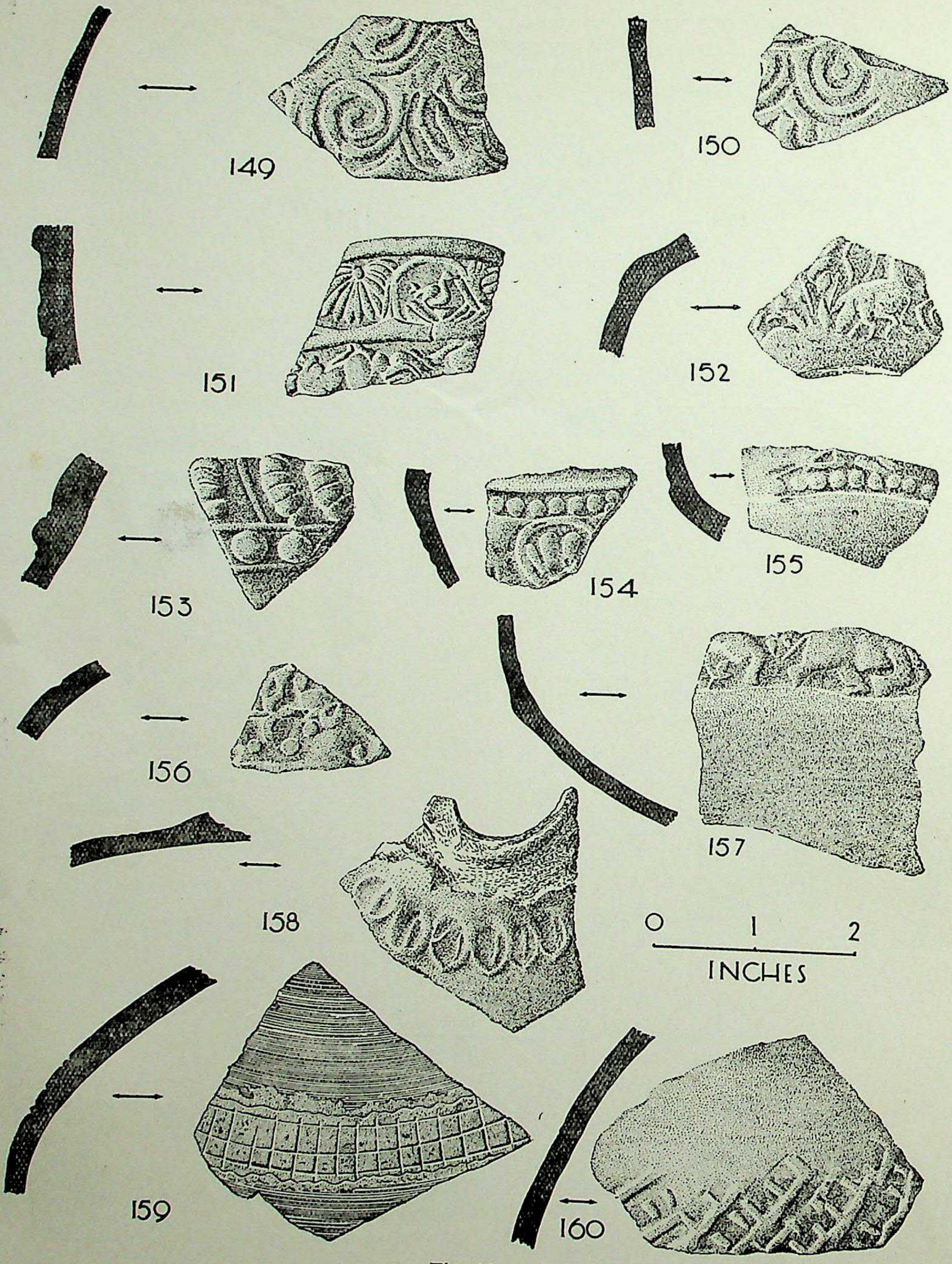
149
150
151
152
153
154
155
156
157
158
0 1 2
INCHES
159
160

Fig. 19

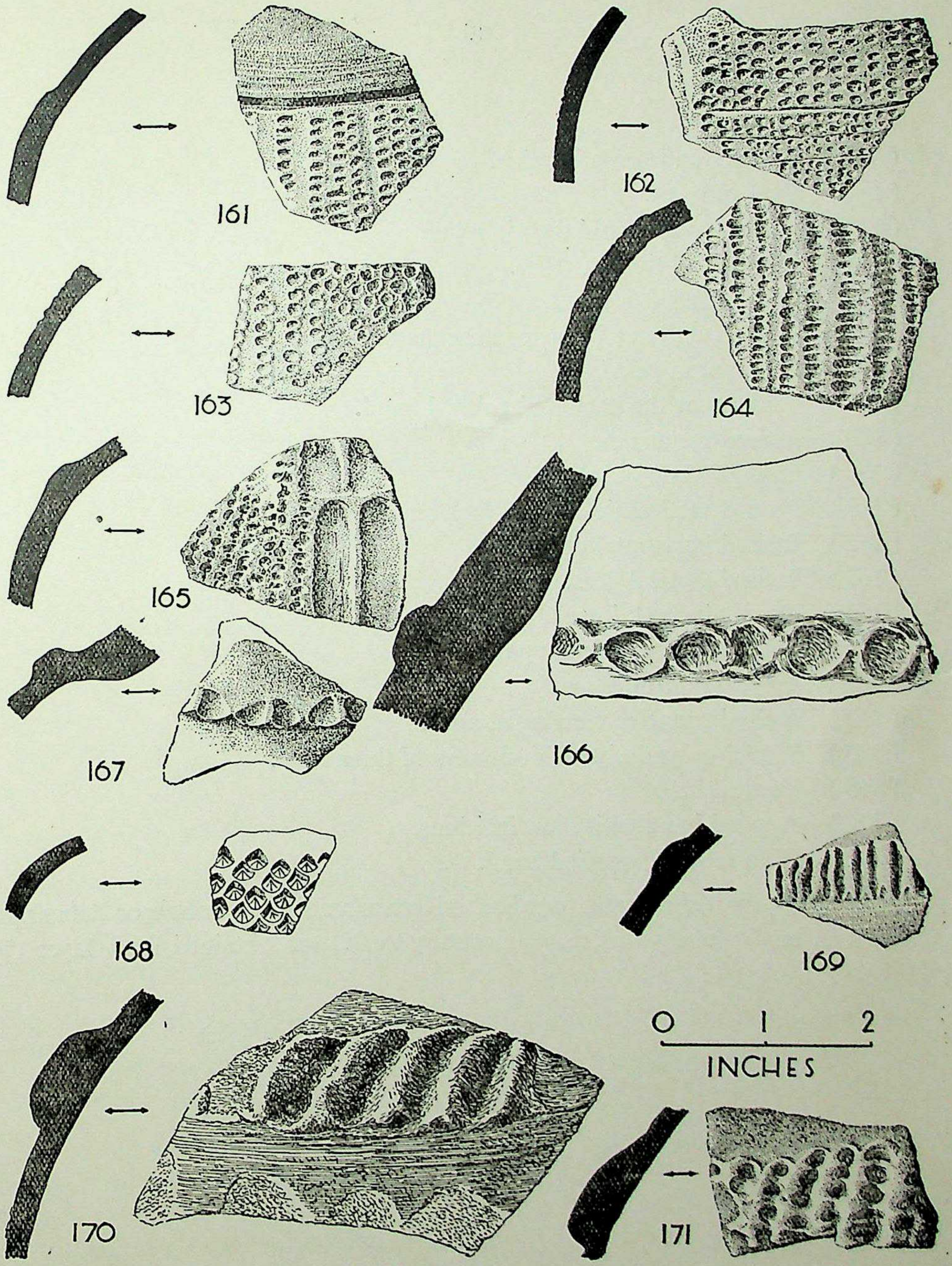
161
162
163
164
165
166
167
168
169
0 1 2
INCHES
170
171

Fig. 20

(149) Loops.
(150) Loops.
(151) Flowers and geese in relief.
(152) Deer in relief.
(153) Floral patterns and dots in relief.
(154) Flower and dots in relief.
(155) Dots in relief.
(156) A floral design (!) of indeterminate nature.
(157) Elephant in relief.
(158) Petals near the neck and painted band.
(159) Incised rectangles.
(160) Oblique rhombuses.
(161) Incised vertical dots with black and white paintings.
(162) Incised horizontal dots.
(163) Incised vertical dots.
(164) Deeply incised dots.
(165) Incised dots and finger patches.
(166) Finger-tipped designs.
(167) Incised triangles meeting at apex.
(168) Semicircular design with flowers of three lines.
(169) Vertical lines.
(170) Applied band with slant incisions.
(171) High relief on applied band.

An inscribed pot-sherd with four Barhmi letters reading Badashale or Bahashale or Bahdhale, in the letters of 5th, 6th century A.D. was obtained from layer (7) (Pl. IVa).

CHAPTER V

ANTIQUITIES

Beads

From the excavations at Shamalaji ten beads of terracotta, carnelian, crystal glass and paste were obtained (Fig. 21 Nos. 1-6).

Six terracotta areca nut beads were collected from the deposits of Periods II, IIA and III.

A biconical hexagonal crystal bead was obtained from the deposit of Period II (layer 9). It was split in two fragments. A globular carnelian bead and a tubular red paste bead were obtained from layer 8, Period II.

A flat disc bead of black glass was obtained from Period II.

The following table gives the distribution of these beads.

Period	*T.C.*	*Crystal*	*Paste*	*Carnelian*	*Glass*
I	—	—	—	—	
II & IIA	4	1	1	1	1
III	2				

Terracotta objects

Terracotta objects consist of human figures, animals, discs, votive-tanks etc. (Figs. 21 & 22).

Animals and human figures

The animals represented in these excavations are a bull and a carnivora (?).

The bull has its head and legs broken. Its hump and body are well made (layer (9) No. 533[1]) (Fig. 22.1).

The carnivora has its legs, tail and parts of the head missing. It has a creamy slip (Layer (8) No. 530) (Fig. 22.2).

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[1] These numbers are the field register numbers.

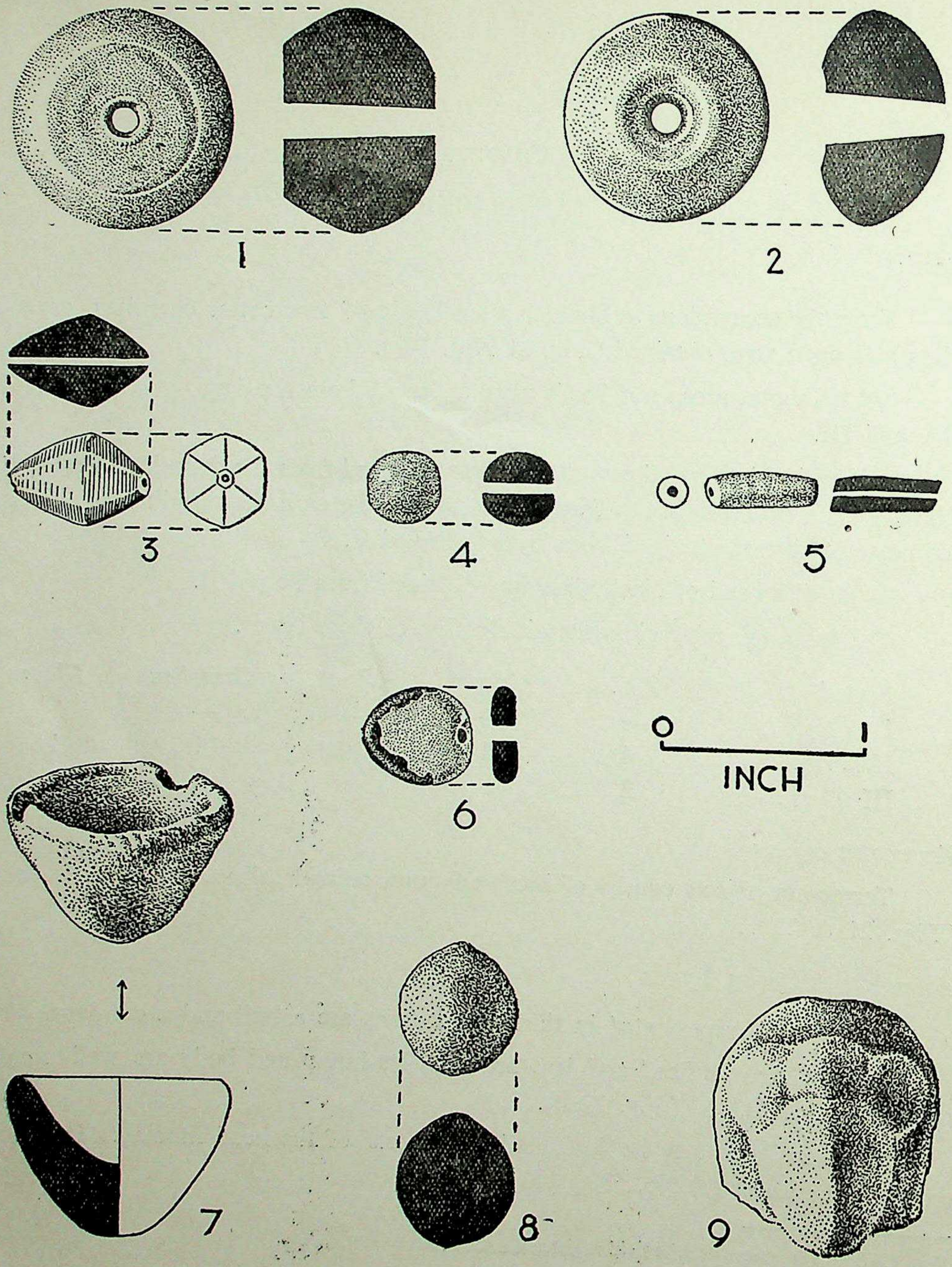
1
2
3
4
5
6
0
1
INCH
7
8
9

Fig. 21

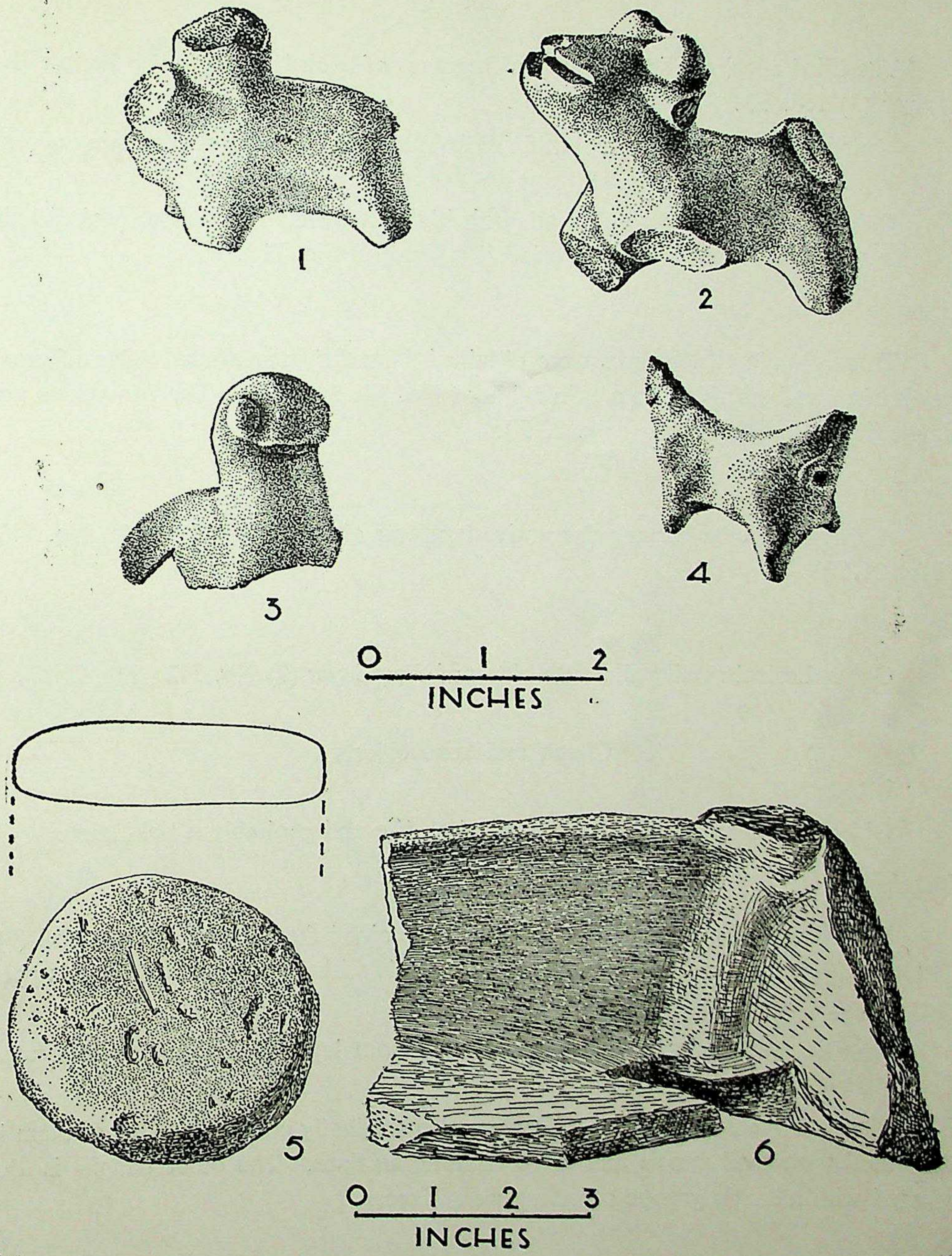
1
2
3
4
0 1 2
INCHES
5
6
0 1 2 3
INCHES

Fig. 22

The third specimen is probably a fragment of a bird belonging to Period III, (Layer (3) No. 937) (Fig. 22.3).

Fourth specimen is an unidentifiable animal with a perforation running across it (Fig. 22.4).

Only one highly worn out head probably of a woman with three peaked hair style was obtained from layer (8) Period II (Fig. 21.9 No. 71).

Discs

Three circular thick discs were obtained from the excavations. One of them was broken and seems to be a skin rubber (No. 541 layer 2). The two others are simple discs from layer (4) (Fig. 22.5).

Votive tank

A fragment of a rectangular votive tank was obtained from layer (9) No. 546. (Fig. 21.6)

Pallet

One spherical small pallet was obtained from layer (9) No. 542 (Fig. 21.8).

Chank and bone objects

Objects of chank and bone are bangles, disc and probably a kohl stick.

Bangles

Five fragments of chank bangles were obtained from layers (7), (8) and (9). The two fragments of chank bangles, and chudis with broad groove on the upper part were coloured red (Fig. 23.1, 2).

One fragment of a broad chank bangle from layer (7) has a fine perforated design (Fig. 23.3).

Two fragments from layer (6) were also originally coloured. One of them is decorated with oval panels and three intersecting lines. The other bangle is decorated with a single groove on its upper surface.

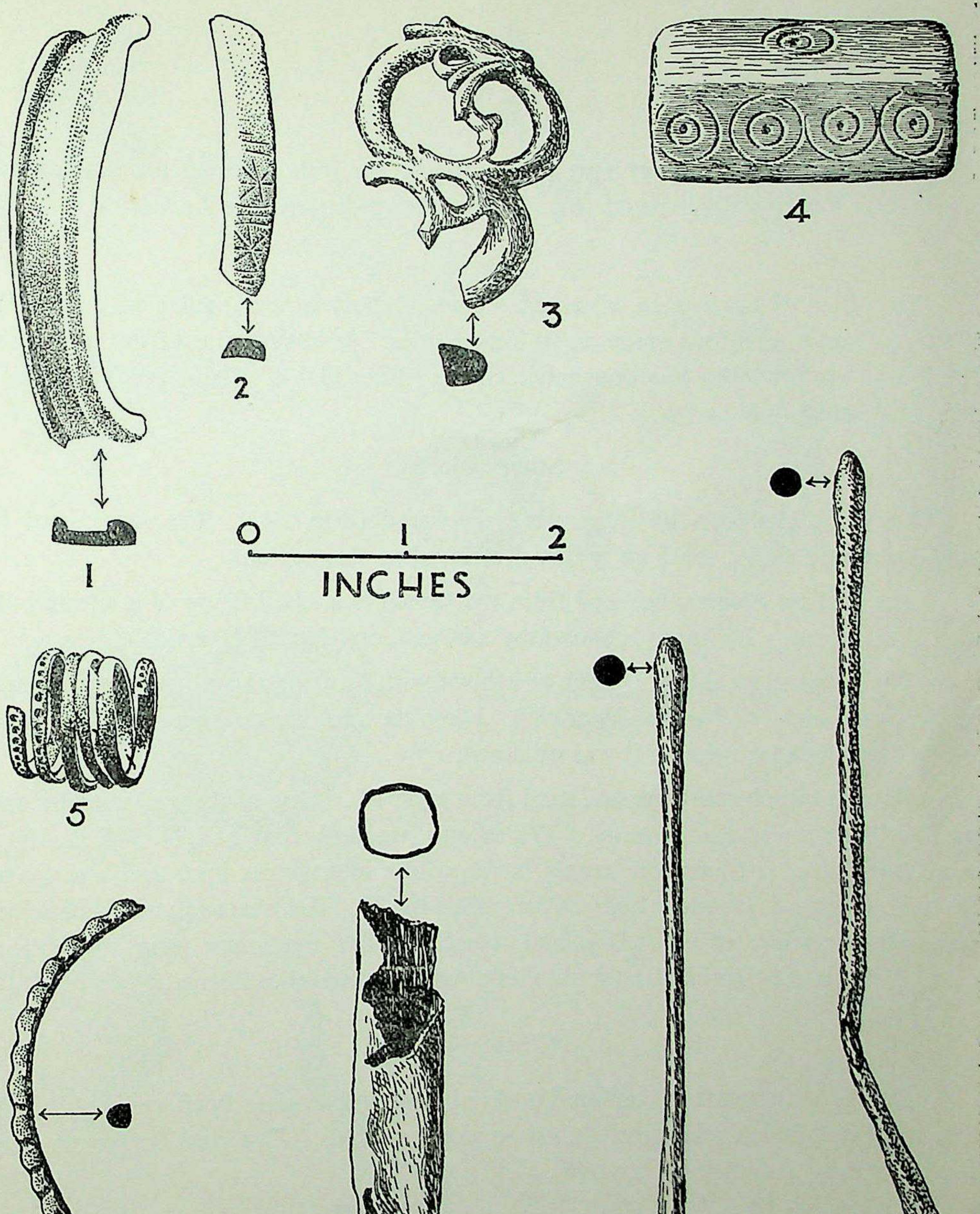
1
2
3
4
0
1
2
INCHES
5
6
7
8
9

Fig. 23

Kohl-stick (?)

A fragment of an upper part of a bone object with rounded top and round section was obtained from layer (6). It probably is a part of a kohl-stick.

Dice

Two dice of bone were obtained. One of them is rectangular with number of marks from one to four made on its longer sides. It was obtained from layer (7). The marks are made by two concentric circles (Fig. 23.4). The other is a fragment with only two marks.

Stone objects

Only eight objects of stone were recovered (Fig. 24). The stone used is sand-stone and schist, both of which are found in this region.

The earliest object recovered from the trench is a small figure of a sitting bull with short horns. Its hump is shown by a large loop (No. 51 layer (6)).

The other piece is a fragment of a bowl with lotus petal and two lines incised on the outer surface (No. 660 layer (5)). From the same layer a fragment of a plaque with a lion's head carved on it was obtained.

Four stone objects were collected from layer (4). One of them is a sand-stone pestle with round section, No. 48. The second is a sand-stone ball, No. 46, the third is a fragment of a decorated bangle having three intersecting lines and a series of seven lines incised across the body of the bangle No 37. The last is an unfinished schist object looking like two bowls joined together. The remaining stone object was a small chalam for *Hukka* or for smoking some narcotic like *Charas*.

Glass objects

Bangle, fragments of unidentifiable objects and a glass bead were obtained. The glass disc bead is described in the section on beads. The glass fragments were found from a pit sealed by layer (6).

Metal objects

Iron, copper and lead were the metals represented in the trench.

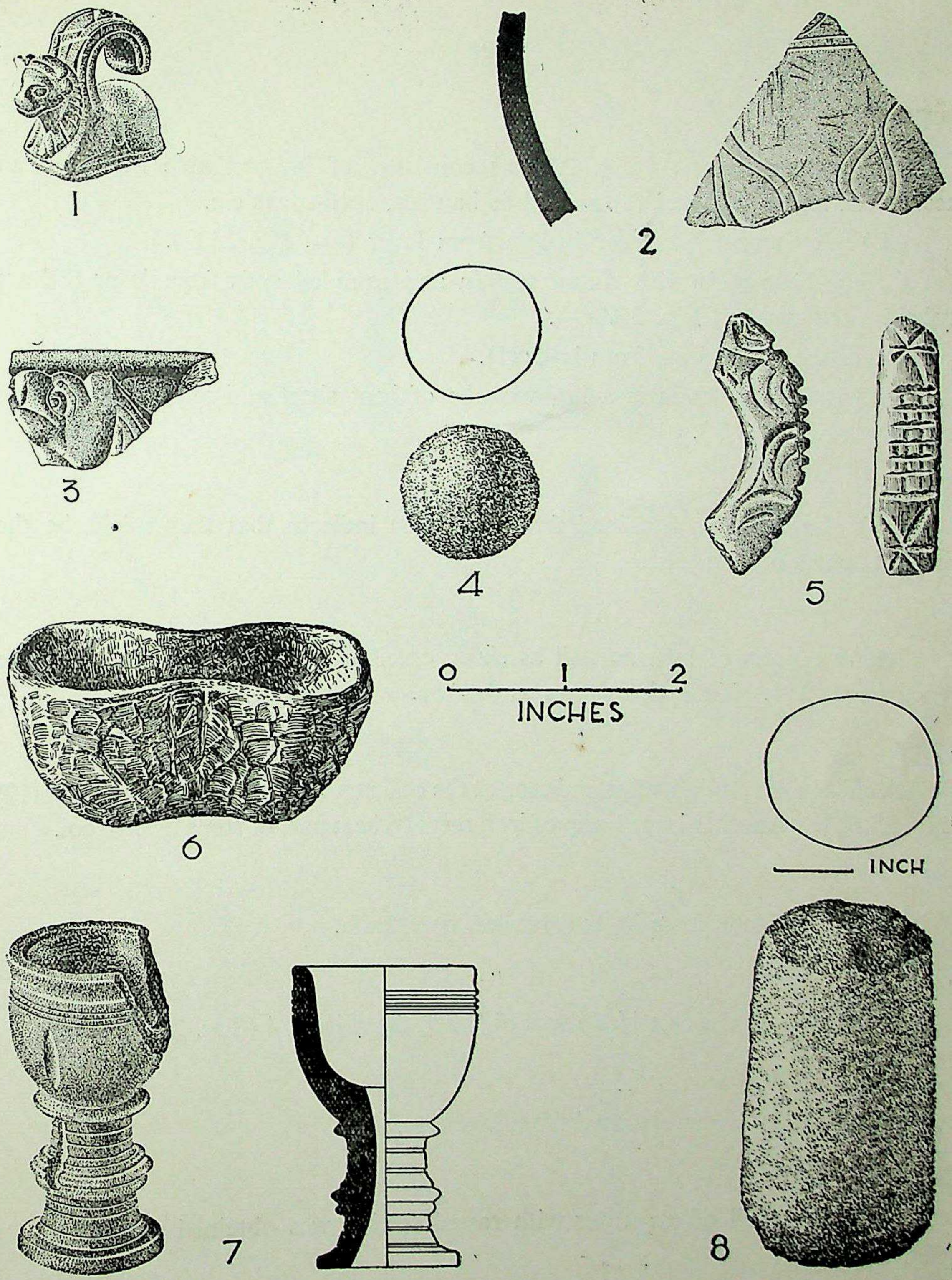
1
2
3
4
5
6
0
1
2
INCHES
INCH
7
8

Fig. 24

Copper

The copper objects (Fig. 23.6-9) consisted of indescribable fragments of sheets from layers (12) and (8) as well as bangles, kohl-sticks etc.

(1) A decorated copper bangle from layer (6) (Fig. 23.6).

(2-3) Two rods with round section and rounded ends from layer (8), are probably kohl-sticks (Fig. 23.8-9).

There are two objects from layer (1).

(4-5) One of them is a hollow tube of bent sheet and another is a spiral ring (Fig. 23.5 and 7).

Lead

(6) Lead sheets obtained from layer (8) indicate that they might be the worn out parts of *Kundalas*.

Iron

Many objects of iron as well as slags, crucibles etc. were obtained from the trench (Fig. 25). Their details are as follows.

Chisel

A chisel with straight edge and tang at the other end was obtained from layer (12) (Fig. 25.10). Another large lump of iron seem to be a part of some heavy tool.

Knife

A broken blade from layer (9) might be a knife.

Sickle

A small tanged sickle blade was obtained from layer 4 (Fig. 25.1).

Sheet

An iron sheet was obtained from layer (5).

Carpenter's drill

A tanged drill of carpenter with round section was obtained from layer (2) (Fig. 25.9).

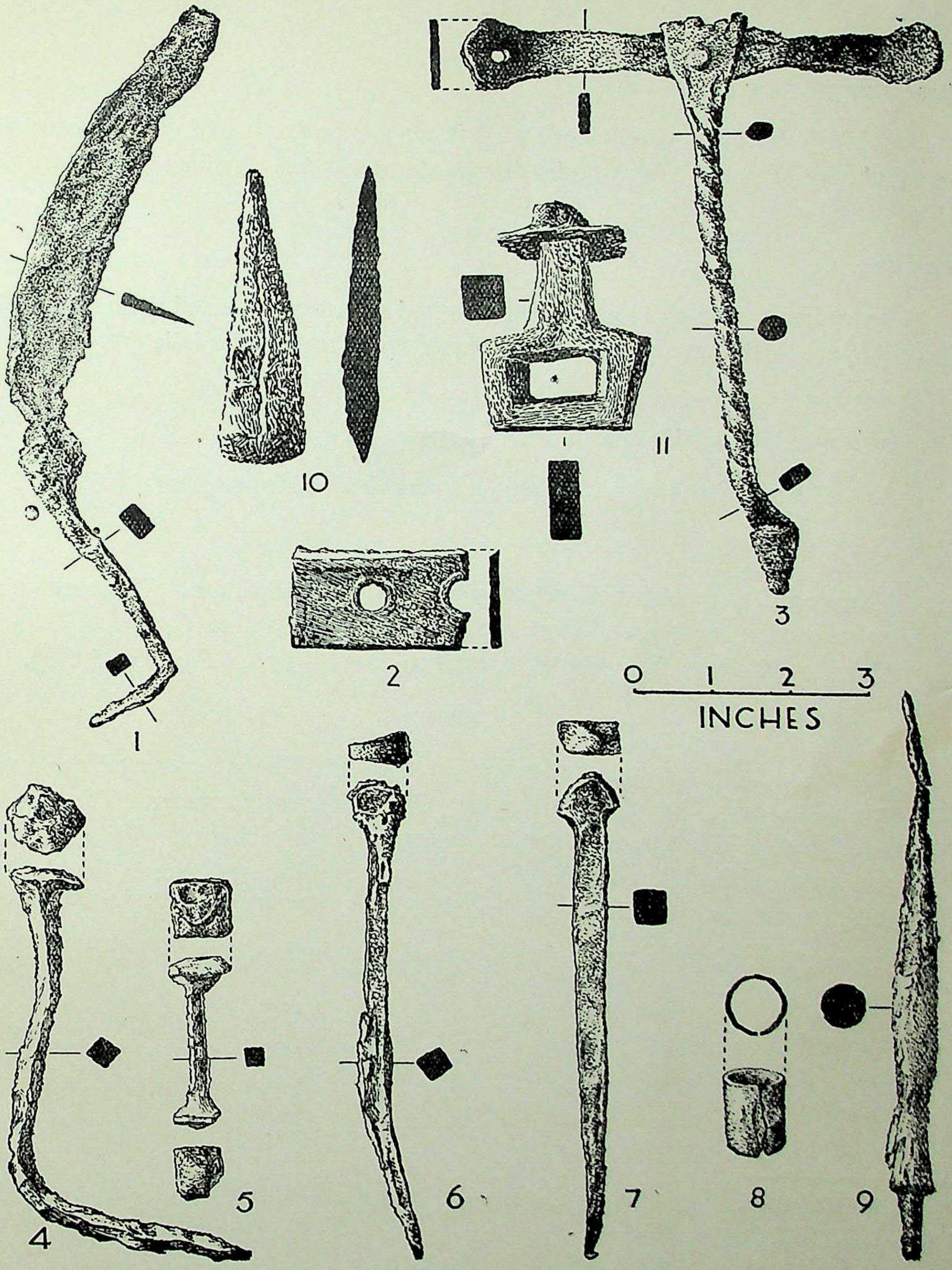
1
10
11
3
2
0 1 2 3
INCHES
4
5
6
7
8
9

Fig. 25

Door strengthening device (?)

A " T " shaped iron object with a hole on the horizontal bend part seems to be an additional support for wooden bar on doors (?) was obtained from layer (2) (Fig. 25.3).

Rivet

An ordinary iron-nail with a plate rivetted to it was obtained from layer (3). From the same layer, another interesting object with a rectangular hole was obtained. (Fig. 25.11).

Strip of iron

A small strip of iron with two holes in it was obtained from layer (1) (Fig. 25.2).

Nails

Many nails were obtained in various states of preservation. They are rectangular in section, with rounded or rectangular heads.

Their lengths vary from about 18 cms. to about 4 cms. (Fig. 25.4-5-6-7).

Coins

From Shamalaji excavations only eight coins in different states of preservation were obtained. Out of them five are of non-descript character. They are of copper and lead. There is only one interesting lead coin in this lot. It is a circular lead coin obtained from layer (10). On its obverse is a human figure in jumping or flying attitude and on the reverse is a lion (No. 585) (Pl. IVB).[2]

Among the other coins are two pieces of East India Company pie minted in 1835 A.D.

---

[2] Mehta, R. N., *A rare lead coin from Shamlaji, Taluka Bhiloda, District Sabarkantha, Gujarat*, J. N. S. I., XXVIII, pt. 1, p. 59.

CHAPTER VI

CONCLUSIONS AND CORRELATIONS

Period I

Shamalaji, from all the available evidence, seems to have been occupied in the iron-using and smelting stage around the beginning of the Christian Era. At this period the iron-technology was very-well established in other parts of Western India, and hence the rudimentary remains of the Iron industry at Shamalaji does not indicate the beginning of this technology in this area. The raw-material, laterite or hamætite is available within the range of 45 kilometers of this site. The tuyeres for blowers and crucibles (Pl. V), point to small scale expolitation of iron in the initial stages of the habitation almost on the bank of the river Meshvo.

Whether this was the first habitation stage at this site or it was preluded by another stage is a moot point, which requires further work, on different parts of the mound of Shamalaji.

Relations of Microlith using and Iron using folk

The present evidence indicates that the heavy summer deciduous forest of this area seems to have been cleared in the iron age, but the free loessic areas in the neighbouring region were occupied by the people making the microliths, before this age. Their relationship with the iron using folk is not known.

Trade Route

The river Meshvo probably helped the traditional traders, who moved along its banks, and reached the interior from the ports of the Arabian Sea. This route entered hilly track from Shamalaji, so this industrial habitation might have acted as an intermediate station for these traders, and this function probably led to the further development of this town.

Period II, Fort Ist Phase

This habitation was fortified in c. the 1st century A.D. It covered within it an area of about fifty acres, which would have sheltered population, which probably would not have been more than 3,000 souls even in the most prosperous period.

This fort was situated on a strategic position. Looking to the political conditions of this period. The Kshaharata rulers, Bhumaka or Nahpana might have been responsible for the construction of this fort. The sagacity, of the construction with its moat was clearly demonstrated, as one finds that parts of the fort were destroyed within at the most half a century after its initial construction. Who was responsible for this breach, is a moot point. The struggles of Nahapana and the Satavahanas as well as the Kardamakas mark this phase of the history of Western India, so it could be inferred that in one of these struggles the fort was possibly breached.

Fort II Phase

But, this breach was repaired, the ground levelled and the habitation began flourishing. Even at the time of the breach of the fort caravans loaded with materials from the Western World were moving past this town and were delivering the Roman goods. This movement continued to influence the town at least for four centuries.

The town seems to have seen peaceful days for a few years, and then its protective wall was again broken. Whether this was broken in the third century A.D., in the political turmoil, which led to the fall of the Kushanas in the North and Satavahanas in the South, or in the beginning of the 4th century A.D., When the Kshatrapa dynasty changed hands cannot precisely be determined for want of data.

Fort III Phase

After this breach, the fort was again repaired. During this time the town continued to flourish. The antiquities obtained from the contemporary level marked by layers (8) (9), occurred from the vihara area at Devnimori, indicating thereby that the vihara was in occupation at this time, either in the closing years of the 3rd century A.D. or in the beginning of the 4th century A.D. The layer (9) from Shamalaji showed that besides pottery, the terracotta votive tanks also occur. They occur at both the Devnimori site as well as Shamalaji. It is, therefore, highly probable that along side the last repair of the fort, the Stupa of Devnimori was constructed, and the vihara was also renovated.[1]

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[1] Mehta, R. N., Chowdhary S. N., *op. cit.*, p, 27 ff.

Destruction of the Fort

But soon afterwards, after the closing of the 4th century A.D. this area came under the power of the Guptas. They probably destroyed the fort, but the material culture did not show any change in the pottery types or other objects of use.

Period IIA Shamalaji after the destruction of Fort

By the end of the fifth century A.D. however, the Roman trade seems to have degenerated. The Palaeographic evidence suggests that after 6th century A.D., the Roman material did not come to Shamalaji. Shamalaji lost its military glory and defence. It was, now an open town, but was fairly prosperous. The discovery of dice, kohl sticks, bangles of chank, pestles, bowls, and rich varieties of the pottery found from these layers as well as the structutes confirm the general prosperity of mediaeval period, as well as seem to support the conclusion that the end of fortification did not adversely affect the inhabitants of Shamalaji for few centuries.

Period III

But the early pottery traditions break after layer (4) and some new traditions begin. These are the top levels of the trench. The comparative level of the base of the 15th/16th century temple of Shamalaji, the step-well and the other standing features, indicate that this new tradition probably belongs to a period later than 14th/15th century A.D.

The early traditions of Shamalaji as noted above, also do not suggest that they come upto 13th century A.D., but stop somewhere at about 10th/11th century A.D. The folk lore about the migration of the Jadeja Rajputs and Thakardas in this area indicate that they occupied the jungle area, some where in 15th century A.D. Thus all these evidences, indicate that, the town of Shamalaji was either deserted completely or partially towards the 10th century A.D. and was flourishing after the 15th century A.D. This change seems to have been reflected in the absence of the typical Chaulukyan sculptures in this area, which probably was in a ruinous condition for a few centuries.

Present condition

This prosperity was comparatively short-lived and the site fell oncemore in oblivion in the politically unsettled time of the 18th century A.D. The Audumbara

Brahmins and Nima Banias, who claim Shamalaji as their native town slowly left this place, which turned into a jungle, its fairs and bazars were abandoned, and they did not begin to flourish till Colonel Outram made an effort to revive the fair of Shamalaji in the last century.[2] This activity resulted into building of the out-post of the Gaekwars and raising a few buildings at this place. After 1947, when decision of building the Shyamasarovar dam now known as Meshvo Sarovara was taken by the Government of Bombay, the colonies of the Public Works Department sprang up. The better road facilities are developing this old town as a holiday resort.

Conclusion

The study of the material culture of Shamalaji in its 1st period is scanty due to limited excavation, but the cultures of period II and II A show good relationship with that from period III obtained from the excavation at Nagara as well as that from period II from Vadnagar[3] and from period II and III from Baroda[4] as well as Timbarva.[5] The objects like amphora and Red Polished Ware show all India and even international relationship of Shamalaji in period II. Its period III also has strong affinities of culture with Gujarat as well as Rajasthan. This wide-spread similarity of the material culture in these period indicates that the cultural integration over very wide area in India was already achieved.

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[2] *Bombay Gazetteer*, Vol. V, p. 440 ff.

[3] Subba Rao, B., Mehta, R. N , *op. cit.*

[4] Subba Rao B., *op. cit.*

[5] Mehta, R. N., *op. cit.*

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